

## 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 EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

<b>S. 284</b>	<b>S. 608</b>
<b>S. 351</b>	<b>S. 886</b>
<b>S. 384</b>	<b>S. 924</b>
<b>S. 432</b>	<b>S. 961</b>
<b>S. 507</b>	<b>S. 1059</b>
<b>S. 527</b>	<b>S. 1097</b>
<b>S. 562</b>	<b>S. 1277</b>
<b>S. 594</b>	<b>S. 2018</b>

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JUNE 21, 2023

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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/2023/6/subcommittee-hearing-to-receive-testimony-on-legislation>

## PENDING LEGISLATION

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023

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

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:35 a.m. in Room SD-366, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Angus S. King, Jr., Chair of the Subcommittee, presiding.

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

Senator KING. Good morning and welcome to the first legislative hearing of the National Parks Subcommittee for the 118th Congress. This hearing is part of the regular legislative order, and by having this hearing, we can get the Administration's and any other interested parties' positions on the record. This will assist us as the Committee determines which proposals will proceed to a full-committee markup and eventually make their way to the Senate floor.

While our only witness here today is from the Department of the Interior, I want to note that we have received statements from the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service on the Continental Divide Trail Completion Act, which involves land they manage.

Additionally, I want to note that the Subcommittee will leave the record open on all bills considered here today, allowing those who wish to submit statements of support or opposition on any of the bills on today's agenda, and we will send that along to be included in the official record, which will help the full Committee's consideration.

I will specifically mention that the Committee has received a letter from our former colleague, Senator Mikulski, who you ignore at your own peril—

[Laughter.]

Senator KING [continuing]. In support of the Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act.

I also want to acknowledge Teresa Haley, the President of the Springfield Branch of the NAACP, who is in attendance today, who submitted testimony to the Committee and has been one of the driving forces behind S. 384, designating a national monument to protect the site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots.

In addition to the bills I just mentioned, we will also hear testimony on a total of 16 bills. Some of these bills are focused on local issues, including studying rivers for potential inclusion in the Wild

and Scenic River System, and boundary adjustments and redesignations for existing park units, including adding 6,000 acres to Big Bend National Park, one of my favorite places in this country.

We will also hear about the Connect our Parks Act, which Ranking Member Barrasso and I introduced last week. This legislation would direct each national park to assess where broadband service is needed and develop plans to increase service access for public safety. America's National Parks provide great opportunities to enjoy nature, and I want to be clear, we are not proposing wiring up our parks' backcountry. Rather, this proposal directs an assessment of housing, administrative facilities, and related structures where broadband is needed in areas where cellular service would increase the public's access to emergency services and would increase the communications capabilities of park rangers. All this would need to be done in a way that would cause minimal disruption to viewsheds, land, and wildlife. The Connect our Parks Act is a common-sense and balanced effort to improve access to emergency services, assist park rangers in responding to crises, and expand growing digital services, like park navigation. I look forward to our continued efforts to improve Maine's and America's great outdoors.

I am also interested in learning more about the Park Service's concern about allowing the previously authorized women's suffrage monument to be placed on the Reserve area of the National Mall. In the 2003 amendments to the Commemorative Works Act, Congress declared that the Reserve area of the Mall is a substantially completed work of civic art. Last Congress, despite the Park Service concerns, we advanced legislation to place the Global War on Terror Memorial on the Reserve. Twenty years after the passage of this provision, it may now be appropriate to carefully review the policy so that we can get to the root of the issue without having to discuss the merits of specific monuments simultaneously. This will help us to avoid having the same philosophical discussion about the Commemorative Works Act each time we have a new proposal to put a memorial on the Reserve.

Now I will turn to Vice Chair Daines for his opening statement, then, to any member of the Committee who wishes to speak about their legislation. Then, we will turn to our witness, Mr. Caldwell, for his 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 16 bills. Many of these bills make modifications to existing parks or monuments, including Senator Tillis in Senate bill 351, to designate six different unnamed creeks in North Carolina in honor of those that tragically died in a small plane crash in February 2022; Senator Cornyn's Senate bill 1059 to expand Big Bend National Park; Senator McConnell's bill, S. 1277, to expand Mammoth Cave National Park; and Senator Blackburn's and Baldwin's Senate bill 886, to authorize the women's suffrage monument to be constructed in the National Mall. You know, Montana played a leading role in the women's suffrage movement. We are proud of the fact we elected the first woman to

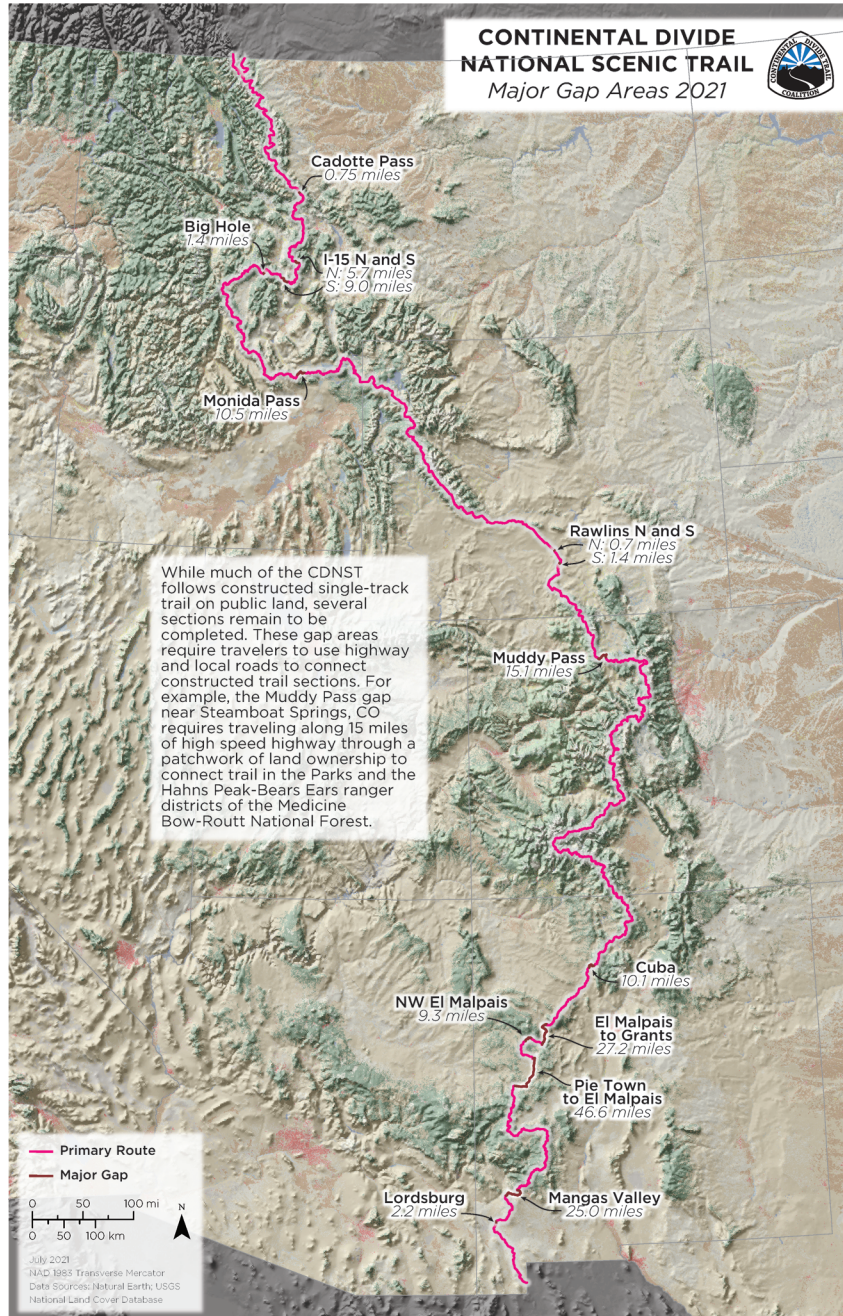
ever serve in Congress. She was serving in Congress before women had the right to vote. It is an amazing story. And I remind my colleagues here on this side of the United States, it was Wyoming that led the nation in women's suffrage. It was these western states that were out in front years ago. I look forward to hearing testimony on these bills and working with my colleagues to get them across the finish line.

At today's hearing we also have the opportunity to hear testimony on my bipartisan bill, Senate bill 594, the Continental Divide Trail Completion Act. This bill requires the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to prioritize completion of the trail before 2028, the 50th anniversary of the trail's designation. The Continental Divide Trail spans over 3,000 miles, from the northern border of Montana to the southern border of New Mexico. In Montana, the trail starts at Glacier National Park and runs nearly a thousand miles south along the Montana-Idaho border to end in Yellowstone National Park. However, there are numerous gaps in Montana and along the trail that require hikers to track along highways and busy roads.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask unanimous consent to enter into the record a map that details these gaps.

Senator KING. Without objection.

[The Continental Divide Trail map follows:]





Senator DAINES. Finishing the trail will benefit communities throughout Montana, especially the gateway communities of Lincoln, Helena, Butte, and Anaconda. Outdoor recreation in Montana is nearly a \$3 billion economy, supplying over 27,000 jobs. Completing the trail will help bring more tourism through our communities and boost local economies—and some of these economies I mentioned badly need a boost. And in Montana, hiking, fishing, and being outdoors with your family isn't just about jobs, it's a part of our heritage, it's our way of life in Montana. But with that comes a deep respect for private property rights, which is why the bill strictly prohibits the use of eminent domain, ensuring that private property rights are protected as we expand public access. The bill has strong support from local communities, recreation groups, and more, including the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Montana Conservation Corps, the City and County of Butte-Silver Bow, the Helena Chamber of Commerce, Glacier County Regional Tourism, Lincoln Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Anaconda Trail Society, and many more local as well as national groups.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to hearing from our witness today and I hope that we can pass this bill quickly out of Committee and get it to the Senate floor.

And with that, Mr. Chairman, I turn it back to you and look forward to a robust discussion and testimony from our witness.

Senator KING. Senator Heinrich.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. MARTIN HEINRICH,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW MEXICO**

Senator HEINRICH. Thank you, Chairman and Ranking Member Daines, and thank you for holding this hearing and for including S. 594, as Ranking Member Daines mentioned, the Continental Divide Trail Completion Act. I introduced this legislation with our Ranking Member to improve the safety, accessibility, and quality of this national scenic trail that connects Americans to amazing landscapes across five western states.

Ranking Member Daines and I disagree on which end is the beginning and which end is the end, but we left that strictly out of the bill today.

[Laughter.]

Senator HEINRICH. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail reaches from Mexico to Canada and from the deserts of southern New Mexico to the peaks of the northern Rockies. Along its 3,000-mile route, the trail passes through some of the most scenic terrain in the nation, including important natural, historical, and cultural sites. Access to the CDT provides opportunities for both recreation and economic development to 20 official gateway communities and to numerous others located along its expansive route. Today, over 160 miles of the trail require hikers to reroute onto roadways and even highways. In addition to these gaps, another 600 miles of the trail route don't fully meet the designated purposes of the trail because of their distance from the divide itself, their scenic quality, or topography. Improving the trail route by closing gaps and making needed relocations will significantly improve trail safety and

enjoyment for visitors, enhancing the trail's ability to support recreation and conservation along the Continental Divide.

S. 594 would create a joint Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management trail completion team to facilitate the completion of the CDT by its 50th anniversary, which is coming up in 2028. The bill directs the federal completion team to collaborate closely with states, local governments, landowners, tribal communities, and others who live, work, and recreate along the trail. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail is an invaluable part of the National Scenic Trail system and of our nationwide network of public lands, parks, and trails. In passing this legislation, we can ensure that the natural, cultural, and economic value of this incomparable trail will be conserved for generations to come.

Thank you again to both the Chair and Ranking Member for your consideration of this legislation, and I will yield back the rest of my time.

Senator KING. Thank you, Senator. I take it that this trail, this Continental Divide Trail, is for those people that, for whatever reason, can't get to the Appalachian Trail? Is that—

[Laughter.]

Senator KING. It begins in Maine.

Senator HEINRICH. If you have done the Appalachian Trail and you desire something a little more challenging—

Senator KING. I see.

[Laughter.]

Senator HEINRICH. Then you can graduate to the CDT.

Senator KING. I will introduce you to the 100-Mile Wilderness at some point.

Our witness is 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.

Mr. Caldwell, welcome, and we look forward to your testimony.

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

Mr. CALDWELL. Thank you.

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 15 of the bills on today's agenda. I would like to submit our full statements on these bills for the record and summarize the Department's views.

Senator KING. Without objection.

Mr. CALDWELL. I would also like to submit the Department's statement for the record on an additional bill, S. 594, requiring the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to prioritize the completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. We ask that any questions on that bill be referred to the Bureau of Land Management.

The Department strongly supports S. 384, establishing the Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument, and supports the following eight bills: S. 432, authorizing a wild and scenic river study of sections of the Nulhegan River and Paul Stream; S. 507, establishing the Ralph David Abernathy, Sr. National Historic Site;

S. 608, authorizing a wild and scenic river study of the Deerfield River; S. 924, authorizing a 10-year extension of the C&O Canal National Historical Park Advisory Commission; S. 961, redesignating the Salem Maritime National Historic Site as a National Historical Park and authorizing a boundary study; S. 1059, adjusting the boundary of Big Bend National Park; S. 1097, establishing the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park; and S. 1277, modifying the boundary of Mammoth Cave National Park. The reasons for our support of these bills are explained in our full statements. For many of the bills, we are requesting amendments, and we would be happy to work with the Committee on drafting them.

The Department supports the goal of S. 2018, directing the preparation of an assessment and plan for addressing internet and cellular service needs in national parks. We would appreciate having more time to evaluate the bill.

Regarding S. 562, establishing the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley and Roberts Temple National Historic Site, the Department strongly supports the bill's efforts to increase public understanding of the momentous impact that Emmett Till's funeral had on our nation's awareness of the injustices suffered by African Americans. Congress could also consider authorizing a special resource study of the site. We recommend amendments if the Committee moves ahead with this bill.

The Department does not support—or does not support as introduced—the following three bills: S. 284, directing the Secretary of the Interior to include the name of Vincent Illuzzi, Sr. on the Taras Shevchenko Memorial; S. 527, establishing the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center—if the Committee moves forward with this bill, we recommend that it be amended to instead provide for a feasibility study of the facility; and S. 886, authorizing the Women's Suffrage National Monument to be located on the National Mall. We strongly support locating the monument in a place of honor and prominence, but not in the Reserve. The Department has worked to protect the Reserve by discouraging the establishment of any new commemorative works within it.

Finally, regarding S. 351, designating six creeks in or close to Cape Lookout National Seashore in honor of six individuals who lost their lives in a plane crash, the Department has concerns about the appropriateness of memorializing victims of accidents by naming geographic features for them and the precedent that might set.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement, and 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. 284, A BILL TO DIRECT THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO INCLUDE ON THE ENGRAVINGS ON THE TARAS SHEVCHENKO MEMORIAL IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA THE NAME OF VINCENT ILLUZZI, SR., WHO CARVED THE STATUE.**

**JUNE 21, 2023**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on S. 284, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to include on the engravings on the Taras Shevchenko Memorial in the District of Columbia the name of Vincent Illuzzi, Sr., who carved the statue.

S. 284 would require the Secretary of the Interior to include the name of Vincent Illuzzi, Sr., on the Taras Schevenko Memorial (Memorial), at an appropriate location near the names of the sculptor and architect of the Memorial. The bill references Illuzzi as the carver of the statue; Illuzzi carved the stone elements of the Memorial but not the bronze statue. The names of the sculptor and architect of the Memorial are part of the original Memorial.

Authorized by Public Law 86-749 in 1960 and dedicated in 1964, the Memorial honors the 19th Century Ukrainian poet laureate and artist whose works captured the fight against oppression, slavery, and exploitation of the Ukrainian people. Shevchenko opposed the occupation of his native land by Russian imperial and colonial rule and championed national independence. The Memorial is located in the park administered by the National Park Service at 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, P Street, and Florida Avenue, Northwest, newly named "Ukrainian Independence Park" by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328).

Upon completion of any commemorative work on land administered by the National Park Service (NPS) in the District of Columbia and its environs, the NPS assumes responsibility for maintaining the memorial as a completed work of commemorative art. Altering an established commemorative work requires an act of Congress.

While Congress has authorized modifications to completed commemorative works in the past, the modifications have usually been enhancements of the commemorative content of the memorials. For example, Congress authorized a plaque commemorating the "I Have a Dream" speech made by Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1963, which was installed many years later on the step on the Lincoln Memorial where he made the famous speech. The Department is aware of only one instance in which Congress authorized the modification of a commemorative work in the Nation's Capital to acknowledge an artistic contributor to that work—that was for the esteemed photographer Joe Rosenthal, who captured the flag-raising moment on Iwo Jima that inspired the sculptor of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial. Modification of the Taras Shevchenko Memorial acknowledgements would likely invite additional similar requests.

Historical records documenting the Memorial's establishment, including the dedication ceremony program, Federal commission reviews for the memorial design, and other documents do not mention Mr. Illuzi's contributions or do so only in a cursory manner that would not warrant mention in the Memorial acknowledgements. The NPS is willing to consider alternative methods, such as interpretive and educational content in park websites, waysides, and other materials, that would acknowledge other Memorial contributors in the context of providing additional information about the story of the Memorial's establishment. These interpretive and educational materials are not commemorative works, and thus do not require Congressional authorization.

For these reasons, the Department does not support this bill. Should the Committee decide to move forward with this legislation, the Department would recommend that the bill be amended to name a memorial sponsor and prohibit the use of Federal funds for the proposed alteration. The 1960 law authorizing establishment of the Memorial stated that the statue would be erected without expense to the United States, as is consistent with most commemorative work authorizations. Legislation authorizing the establishment or modification of memorials typically prohibits the use of Federal funds to pay for any expense related to the establishment of the commemorative work and identifies a memorial sponsor that will provide the necessary funds to complete the project. S. 284 as introduced does not identify a sponsor for that purpose.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or any other members of the Subcommittee 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. 351, A BILL TO DESIGNATE 6 CREEKS IN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA IN HONOR OF THE LIVES LOST IN A PLANE CRASH IN CARTERET COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, ON FEBRUARY 13, 2022, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**JUNE 21, 2023**

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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. 351, a bill to designate 6 creeks in the State of North Carolina in honor of the lives lost in a plane crash in Carteret County, North Carolina, on February 13, 2022, and for other purposes.

On February 13th, 2022, a small plane with eight individuals on board, including four teenagers, crashed near Drum Inlet, off the coast of North Carolina and near Cape Lookout National Seashore. None of the individuals on board survived the crash. S. 351 would designate six creeks in that area for the following passengers: Noah Styron, age 15; Hunter Parks, age 45; Kole McInnis, age 15; Stephanie Fulcher, age 42; Jacob Taylor, age 16; and Daily Shepherd, age 15. These six creeks are located within or near Cape Lookout National Seashore (Seashore), but there is no mention of the Seashore in the legislation.

By policy, the National Park Service generally discourages the naming of park features except when there is a compelling justification—i.e., the association between the person and the park is of exceptional importance—and at least five years have elapsed since the death of the person. Some or all of the creeks proposed for designation are within the boundary of the Seashore. The Department has concerns about the appropriateness of memorializing victims of accidents by naming geographic features for them. We urge the Committee to consider the precedent that passing this bill might set.

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 FOR 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. 384, TO ESTABLISH THE SPRINGFIELD 1908 RACE RIOT NATIONAL  
MONUMENT IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
JUNE 21, 2023**

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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. 384, a bill to establish the Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes.

The Department strongly supports S. 384 with technical amendments.

S. 384 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to establish the Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument as a unit of the National Park System after meeting specified requirements. The bill includes authorities for land acquisition and administration that are commonly included in legislation establishing a unit of the National Park System. S. 384 would also authorize the Secretary to establish a memorial within the national monument, and it would establish an advisory commission to advise the Secretary with respect to the management and development of the National Monument.

The establishment of this site as a unit of the National Park System would reflect the National Park Service's (NPS) recently completed special resource study of the race riot site, which concluded that the site meets all criteria necessary to be eligible for designation as a new unit. The Springfield Race Riot site contains the foundations of five of the dozens of homes that were destroyed during the 1908 riot that engulfed the city. The riot was a multi-day affair, started by a White mob, directed primarily against African American residents. The riot resulted in the lynching of two Black men, assaults on many more, damage to Black-owned and Jewish-owned businesses, and the destruction of whole neighborhoods. 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 in Springfield occurred in Abraham Lincoln's hometown, a few months before the centennial of his birth, and highlighted the lack of progress on race relations in America. In February 1909, civil rights leaders, in direct reaction to the Springfield riot, formed the National Negro Committee, 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 its contributions to civil rights in America.

In 2019, the NPS completed a reconnaissance survey of the site which provided a preliminary assessment of its national significance, suitability, feasibility, and need for NPS management, concluding that the site was likely to meet the NPS criteria for inclusion in the National Park System. Subsequently, pursuant to Public Law 116-139, the NPS conducted a full special resource study of the site confirming those findings.

The special resource study found that the archeological site near the 10<sup>th</sup> & Madison rail corridor meets all criteria necessary to be considered eligible for designation as a new unit of the national park system. The landowners, the City of Springfield, the NAACP, and local community organizations have expressed strong support for a national park designation and for future partnerships with the NPS to protect and manage the site.

The study concluded that there are two options, a smaller and a larger boundary, in which the NPS could reasonably manage the site and meet resource protection and visitor experience objectives. The larger boundary would likely be the most effective and efficient alternative if the site were managed in a collaborative manner with a robust group of partners. A smaller boundary would likely be the most effective and efficient alternative if partnerships were less viable or if it was determined that most visitor services and experiences could be addressed off-site. Given these variables, along with the City of Springfield's plans for the use of lands within the vicinity of the site, the Department would appreciate having the opportunity to give further consideration to whether any changes should be recommended to the boundary that would be established by S. 384 as introduced.

S. 384 includes a provision requiring the Secretary to construct a memorial on the site, using donated or appropriated funds. The Department is aware that stakeholders have completed designs for a memorial and have identified preferred entities for construction. For purposes of consistency with the terms on which Congress has authorized other proposals for the design and establishment of memorials on NPS lands, the Department recommends that the bill be amended to authorize the Secretary to accept the donation of a memorial, provided that the design and location of the memorial is approved by the Secretary and the donation includes sufficient funds to provide for the memorial's installation and ongoing maintenance. This proposed change would include a prohibition on using Federal funds for the design and establishment of the memorial.

The Department looks forward to working with the Committee to add the important story of the Springfield 1908 Race Riot to the assemblage of sites that the NPS administers. We would be pleased to provide recommended language and a revised boundary map, if necessary, to address the issues described in this statement.

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



**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS CONCERNING S. 432, TO AMEND THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT TO DESIGNATE THE NULHEGAN RIVER AND PAUL STREAM IN THE STATE OF VERMONT FOR POTENTIAL ADDITION TO THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

June 21, 2023

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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. 432, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Nulhegan River and Paul Stream in the State of Vermont for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 432. We would like to note that there are 22 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. 432 would authorize a study to determine whether the following river segments meet the criteria for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System: The approximately 22-mile segment of the main stem of the Nulhegan River from the headwaters near Nulhegan Pond to the confluence of the Connecticut River, and any associated tributaries (including the North, Yellow, Black, and East Branches); and the approximately 18-mile segment of Paul Stream from the headwaters on West Mountain to the confluence with the Connecticut River, and any associated tributaries. The bill requires the study to be completed no later than three years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out the study.

The Nulhegan River and Paul Stream are known for clean, free flowing waters, exceptional recreational opportunities, and a rich cultural and natural history. The Nulhegan River is free flowing, wild, and scenic, and is home to boreal habitats, native fisheries, working forests, and small rural settlements. Paul Stream is mostly wild and undeveloped. The Nulhegan River watershed is home to the Nulhegan Basin Division of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, the state's Wenlock Wildlife Management Area and conserved forestlands. The watershed drains approximately 145 square miles and encompasses the Vermont towns of Brighton, Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone, and the Unified Towns and Gores of Essex County (Averill, Avery's Gore, Ferdinand, Lewis, Warren Gore, Warner's Grant). There is strong support from these communities, as well as from the Abenaki nation, for the study. Additionally, nearly a dozen conservation groups have issued letters of support for the study.

If enacted, the National Park Service intends to undertake the study in close cooperation with the affected communities, relevant state agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other interested stakeholders using a partnership-based study approach. The partnership-based

approach is recognized in Section 10(e) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as a means of encouraging state and local governmental participation in the administration of a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This approach allows for development of a proposed river management plan as part of the study, which helps landowners and local jurisdictions understand their potential future roles in river management should Congress decide to designate part or all of the rivers being studied.

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. 507, A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY, SR. NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**JUNE 21, 2023**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on S. 507, a bill to establish the Ralph David Abernathy, Sr. National Historic Site as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 507.

S. 507 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Ralph David Abernathy, Sr. National Historic Site at the historic West Hunter Street Baptist Church in Atlanta as a unit of the National Park System after meeting specified requirements. The bill includes authorities for land acquisition and administration that are commonly included in legislation establishing a unit of the National Park System.

The legislation is based on the recommendations of the National Park Service's special resource study of the West Hunter Street Baptist Church, transmitted to Congress on March 21, 2022. The study found that the Church met the criteria for national significance for its close association with Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, Sr. As a result of findings that the site met all the criteria necessary to be considered appropriate for addition to the National Park System, the Department recommended that Congress consider establishing the site as a unit of the National Park System.

Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, Sr., was a key civil rights strategist and co-president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for whom he was also a friend and confidant. Following Dr. King's assassination in 1968, Rev. Abernathy became the SCLC president and championed important civil rights measures, such as Operation Breadbasket and the Poor People's Campaign. Over the course of his life, Abernathy organized economic justice and labor initiatives, served as a peace negotiator (including at Wounded Knee) and a goodwill ambassador.

Rev. Abernathy pastored Atlanta's West Hunter Street Baptist Church and performed critical aspects of his work there, earning the church recognition as "the spiritual workplace of the civil rights movement." The church served as a school for nonviolent protest initiatives, hosted civil rights leadership meetings, and provided spiritual sanctuary for countless civil rights activists.

Rev. Abernathy pastored from the Gothic Revival-style structure erected in 1906 and located at 775 Hunter Street (now Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive) prior to relocating the congregation in

1973. The historic structure represents an integral part of American and civil rights history not currently represented elsewhere within the National Park System. The church holds national significance as the location of important civil rights organizing throughout the modern civil rights movement. National Park Service (NPS) protection would highlight the work and legacy of Rev. Abernathy, as well as the important role of churches in the civil rights movement. Civic engagement in 2017, part of the special resource study process, demonstrated high public support for NPS management of the site, and the site possesses strong potential for public benefit, enjoyment, and inspiration.

Adding the Ralph David Abernathy, Sr. National Historic Site to the National Park System would provide the historic West Hunter Street Baptist Church site with long-term protection and allow the public to learn about Rev. Abernathy, the church and their respective roles in the modern civil rights movement.

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

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS CONCERNING S. 527, A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER IN NEW YORK, NEW YORK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

June 21, 2023

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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. 527, a bill to establish the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Education Center in New York, New York, and for other purposes.

The Department recognizes the importance of the African Burial Ground and supports increasing public understanding of the injustice of slavery in the United States, and the National Park Service (NPS) addresses these themes and concepts in the present visitor facility of the African Burial Ground National Monument (Monument). However, as described in this statement, we do not support this bill as introduced without first completing fuller analysis. The Department would recommend, if the Committee moves forward with this legislation, that the bill be amended instead to authorize a study of the plan and feasibility of a memorial museum and education center adjacent to the Monument.

S. 527 would establish at the African Burial Ground National Monument, a memorial museum, and educational center to be known as the "African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center" (Museum) to serve as a permanent living memorial to the enslaved who are buried at the African Burial Ground and to other enslaved Africans and African Americans. The Museum would examine the African cultural traditions brought to the United States by the enslaved and explore in-depth the institution of slavery in the United States and other parts of the world. Many of these themes and concepts are already embraced and presented by the Monument in its present visitor facility. In the absence of a study that specifically explores the plan for, and feasibility of, the Museum, we have little information about how the Museum is meant to relate to the Monument.

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

The Monument consists of designed urban space that encompasses a plaza, sculptural elements and seven burial mounds, the location of the re-interred remains from the burial ground. A large 24-foot granite sculpture resembles the prow of a ship and symbolically references the journey

from and back home to Africa. Passing through the threshold of the “ship,” one encounters a large map depicting the African Diaspora. A spiral ramp provides access back out to the street level past carved symbols from many of the world’s religions and African cultural groups.

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

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

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

While the Department understands that a memorial museum at the site of the Monument was first recommended by a Federal steering committee in 1992, there has been no comprehensive study of the proposal that addresses the purpose, need, feasibility, or cost to establish and operate an associated museum or a study that evaluates alternatives for such a facility.

If the Committee decides to pursue amending the bill to provide for a feasibility study, rather than establishment, of the Museum, we would be happy to work with the Committee on language that ensures that the study addresses the issues outlined 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 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. 562, A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE EMMETT TILL AND MAMIE TILL-MOBLEY AND ROBERTS TEMPLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**JUNE 21, 2023**

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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. 562, a bill to establish the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley and Roberts Temple National Historic Site, in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes.

The Department strongly supports S. 562's efforts to increase public understanding of the momentous impact that Emmett Till's funeral had on our Nation's awareness of the injustices suffered by African Americans. Congress could also consider authorizing a special resource study of the site of the funeral and associated Civil Rights sites in Illinois, which may help deepen Congress's understanding of the role this story and others played in the Civil Rights movement. If the Committee decides to move ahead with S. 562 as introduced, we would appreciate the opportunity to work with the Committee on amendments.

S. 562 would authorize the establishment of the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley and Roberts Temple National Historic Site after the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) determines that an agreement entered into between the Secretary and the Roberts Temple Church of God in Christ (Roberts Temple) providing for public access to, and interpretation, operation, and maintenance of, the National Historic Site that is sufficient to constitute a manageable park unit. The bill provides for the boundary of the historic site to be established after enactment. In other respects, the bill contains provisions for administration of the site that is common for bills establishing new units of the National Park System.

In the summer of 1955, Emmett Till, a 14-year-old from the Chicago area, visited relatives in the Mississippi Delta. His mother, Mamie (née Carthan) Till-Mobley, had migrated from Mississippi to Chicago where Emmett was born. While visiting Money, Mississippi, Emmett Till bought candy from Carolyn Bryant, the young White woman behind the counter, at Bryant's Grocery Store. Eyewitnesses said Till whistled at Mrs. Bryant.

On August 28, 1955, Till was abducted from his great-uncle Moses (Mose) Wright's home in the middle of the night, tortured, and murdered by Bryant's husband, Roy Bryant, and his half-brother, J.W. Milam, in a seed barn. After Till's disappearance, Wright contacted the authorities, and Bryant and Milam were arrested and charged with kidnapping. Till's body was later found in the Tallahatchie River, and eventually returned to his family in Chicago.

According to sources, upwards of 50,000 people attended Emmett Till's funeral at the Roberts Temple. Though a grieving mother, Till-Mobley was attuned to the moment and the potentially galvanizing effect of choosing to hold an open-casket funeral and inviting the world to see her son's mutilated body. Photos of Till, taken shortly before his funeral, appeared in Jet Magazine, an African American weekly, and other African American publications, prompting a national outcry. Publication of these photos allowed an even wider audience to see the tragic and irreversible consequences of unchecked racism and violence. The mutilation and lynching of young Emmett Till shook the country and sparked the modern civil rights movement.

As the site of Emmett Till's funeral, Roberts Temple unquestionably has a place in our nation's history, as described by a Commission on Chicago Landmarks recommendation in 2005, and in other countless historical records.

The site has not yet been the subject of a special resource study, so Congress could consider authorizing such a study to provide further assessment of the national significance, as well as suitability, feasibility, and need for National Park Service management, the criteria for determining whether a site is appropriate for inclusion in the National Park System. A special resource study also includes a public involvement component.

If the Committee decides to move forward with S. 562 as a designation rather than a study, the Department would recommend several amendments, including: changing the name of the site to the "Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Historic Site" to highlight the nationally significant story the site tells; focusing the purpose of the site on protecting and interpreting the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley story; and defining a boundary of the site by means of referencing a legislative map prior to enactment of the bill. We would be pleased to provide recommended amendments and a legislative map for these purposes.

Chairman King, this concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you or the members of the Subcommittee may have.



**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS CONCERNING S. 608, TO AMEND THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT TO DIRECT THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE DEERFIELD RIVER FOR POTENTIAL ADDITION TO THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

June 21, 2023

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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. 608, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Deerfield River for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 608. However, we would like to note that there are 22 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. 608 would authorize a study of the Deerfield River to determine whether it meets the criteria for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The study would encompass the entire river, including the North, South, East, and West Branches, and its major tributaries including the Green River, North River, South River, Clesson Brook, Chickley River, Cold River, Gulf Brook, Bog Brook, and Dunbar Brook. The bill requires the study to be completed no later than three years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out the study.

The Deerfield River is a highly significant recreational and natural resource that runs for 76 miles from southern Vermont through northwestern Massachusetts to the Connecticut River, traversing the Green Mountain National Forest, Berkshire Mountains, and Pioneer Valley hill towns. With rapids from Class II to Class V, it offers perhaps the best whitewater boating and rafting in Massachusetts. It is also an excellent cold-water trout fishery and provides outstanding habitat for native Brook Trout throughout the watershed. The historically significant Mohawk Trail ran along the river and was a principal Native American travel route. Several tributaries, such as Cold River and Bog and Gulf Brooks, are wild free-flowing rivers. Multiple segments of the Deerfield River were identified on the National Park Service's Nationwide Rivers Inventory as having "outstandingly remarkable" values and potentially eligible for National Wild and Scenic Rivers designation. The USDA Forest Service previously completed an eligibility evaluation under Section 5(d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and determined 13.2 miles of the Deerfield River (from its headwaters to north of Searsburg Reservoir) to be eligible, with a preliminary classification of "scenic."

There is also substantial existing hydroelectric development in the Deerfield basin, but the National Park Service would not expect the study to impact existing operation of these facilities.

The potential impact of the facilities on the eligibility and suitability of the various segments of the Deerfield River would be a topic for study consideration.

If enacted, the National Park Service intends to undertake the study in close cooperation with the affected communities, the Green Mountain National Forest, the relevant agencies of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and State of Vermont, and interest groups such as the Deerfield Watershed Association through a partnership-based study approach. The partnership-based approach is recognized in Section 10(e) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as a means of encouraging state and local governmental participation in the administration of a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This approach also allows for development of a proposed river management plan as part of the study, which helps landowners and local jurisdictions understand their potential future roles in river management should Congress decide to designate part, or all of the rivers being studied.

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

The National Park Service is aware that there is substantial local community and stakeholder support for conducting a wild and scenic rivers study and, if enacted, we would expect strong public participation in the study process.

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. 886, TO AUTHORIZE THE LOCATION OF A MONUMENT ON THE NATIONAL MALL TO COMMEMORATE AND HONOR THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT AND THE PASSAGE OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**JUNE 21, 2023**

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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. 886, a bill to authorize the location of a monument on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the women's suffrage movement and the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, and for other purposes.

The Department strongly supports honoring the American suffragists' long struggle to secure the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment which provided women with the right to vote. We support building the Women's Suffrage National Monument in a place of national honor and prominence. However, since the establishment of the Reserve by Congress in 2003, the Department has endeavored to protect the Reserve by discouraging the establishment of any new commemorative works within it. It is for that reason that we do not support S. 886 as currently drafted. This position is consistent with other testimony the Department has submitted on legislation that proposes new commemorative works within the Reserve.

S. 886 would authorize the Women's Suffrage National Monument to be established in the Reserve, which otherwise would not be permitted under the Commemorative Works Act (40 USC 89 et seq.) (CWA). The bill requires the monument to comply with other provisions of the CWA.

In December 2020, legislation to authorize the establishment of the Women's Suffrage National Monument (then called Every Word We Utter Monument) was enacted as Public Law 116-217. This law authorizes the monument to be established on Federal land managed by the National Park Service or the General Services Administration in Washington, DC, in accordance with the CWA. The Department testified in support of authorizing the establishment of the monument with the understanding that the CWA, including the Act's prohibition on locating new memorials in the Reserve, would apply.

The CWA was enacted to ensure that proper consideration is given to authorization, location, and design of new memorials within Washington, DC. Congress amended the CWA in 2003, establishing the Reserve and declaring it a completed work of civic art where "the siting of new commemorative works is prohibited." The CWA identifies the Reserve as "the great cross-axis of the Mall" which extends from the United States Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial, and from the White House to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.

The Department's concerns about establishing the Women's Suffrage National Monument in the Reserve are similar to those expressed by the Department on similar legislation. Other sponsors of memorials have sought prominent locations as well, and have worked with the National Park

Service, the National Capital Planning Commission, and the Commission of Fine Arts to secure sites outside of the Reserve that meet their needs. The National Park Service is committed to continuing to work with the sponsors of the Women's Suffrage National Monument to identify a suitable location for this monument that is not in the Reserve.

Through communication that the National Park Service has had with the monument sponsor, we understand that they are also considering multiple sites in Area I. If the sponsors of the monument were to obtain approval from Congress for placement in Area I, a number of prominent sites would become available for consideration. Area I is part of the monumental core but includes sites outside of the Reserve. The monument sponsors would then have the full range of options available in both Area I and Area II.

Congress' 2003 Reserve designation responded to a pressing need to preserve the integrity of the National Mall and rapidly diminishing public space in the city's monumental core. The pressures on the Mall's open space have amplified through time. In addition to hosting over 35 million visitors to the Mall each year, more than 9,000 permitted events including 1,000 first amendment demonstrations take place on or near the National Mall annually. The space is also heavily used for recreational activities, national celebrations, critical operational and security movements associated with its placement at the city center, and park visitation. Maintaining the Mall's open spaces and existing architecture is essential to ensuring that it continues to convey its significance as our nation's premier civic space. We urge the Committee to protect this special place for the enjoyment of Americans for generations to come.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or the other members of the Subcommittee 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. 924, A BILL TO AMEND THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL DEVELOPMENT ACT TO EXTEND THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK COMMISSION.**

**JUNE 21, 2023**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on S. 924, a bill to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission.

The Department supports S. 924.

S. 924 would reauthorize the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission (Commission) through September 30, 2034, ten years beyond the Commission's currently authorized termination date of September 26, 2024.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park (park) is a 184.5-mile-long linear park that covers roughly 20,000 acres along the Potomac River from the middle of Washington, DC to Cumberland, Maryland. The Canal provides a place for visitors to enjoy nature and recreate but is also a place where important stories of American history are preserved through the telling of the Canal's role in western expansion, transportation, engineering, the Civil War, immigration, industry, and commerce.

Since its establishment in 1971, the Commission has provided a vital link between the surrounding communities and the National Park Service (NPS), which manages the operations, maintenance, and restoration of the park. The park crosses 19 political jurisdictions, and the Commission has played a key role in helping the NPS communicate and engage with partners, local governments, and the public along the length of the park. For example, the Commission has offered recommendations to improve visitor enjoyment and safety along the Potomac River, increase recreational opportunities and amenities, and manage scenic easements. The Commission's 19 members are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to five-year terms. Three are at-large members. The Governors of Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia, and the Mayor of the District of Columbia each recommend two members for appointment. The governing bodies of the four Maryland counties bordering the Canal also each recommend two members for appointment.

The Commission advises the Secretary on policy and other matters relating to the development and administration of the park. The Commission supports the mission of the park through its deliberation on many resource and visitor enjoyment issues facing the park. The Department supports extending the Commission to continue affording the Secretary the ability to consider

these matters as they relate to the multiple States, counties, and towns that the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal runs through from Washington D.C. to Cumberland, Maryland.

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, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, REGARDING S. 961, TO REDESIGNATE THE SALEM MARITIME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS, AS THE “SALEM MARITIME NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK”, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**June 21, 2023**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior’s views on S. 961, a bill to redesignate the Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Salem, Massachusetts, as the “Salem Maritime National Historical Park”, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 961.

S. 961 would redesignate Salem Maritime National Historic Site as “Salem Maritime National Historical Park”. The bill would also direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a boundary study to evaluate including any sites and resources located within the city of Salem, Massachusetts that are associated with Salem’s maritime history, coastal defenses, or military history, including National Guard and militia activity. This would include the Salem Armory Visitor Center and the Salem Armory Park. The bill provides for the boundary study to be completed within three years of funding being made available for the study.

Designated by Secretarial Order in 1938, Salem Maritime National Historic Site was the first designated national historic site. The park preserves and interprets America’s and New England’s maritime history and the important role that Salem played in the development of international maritime trade from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century through the 19<sup>th</sup> century. While the park was originally limited to interpreting the theme of maritime trade through the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, subsequent legislation broadened the park’s focus to include the domestic life of colonial Salem, and immigration and industrial history of the city in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Currently, the park is an 8.93-acre historic district containing ten historic buildings, nine archeological sites, four historic wharfs, and a historic light station, dating between 1675 and 1944. The *Friendship of Salem*, a replica late-18<sup>th</sup> century tall ship owned and operated by the National Park Service, reflects Salem’s economic heyday from the 1790’s through the 1830’s. The diverse historic resources and replica tall ship provide living classrooms within which visitors can consider the ways that tall ships and the rise of global maritime trade networks in New England contributed to the American Revolution and helped shape modern socioeconomic and political development in the United States.

The park is also responsible for managing the Salem Regional Visitor Center in downtown Salem at the Salem Armory in which the National Park Service has a limited ownership interest. The Salem Regional Visitor Center serves as the primary Salem Maritime National Historic Site visitor center, provides community spaces to explore the park unit’s interpretive themes in

modern contexts, and supports the Essex National Heritage Area. The park is a key site and gateway to the national heritage area.

The Department believes that the redesignation of Salem Maritime National Historic Site as a national historical park, as provided by S. 961, is appropriate. Generally, National Park System units designated as “national historical parks” have a greater diversity of historical resources and interpretive themes than those designated as “historic sites” and may be spread out over non-contiguous lands. As is reflected in its long history, Salem Maritime National Historic Site has expanded in the scope of its resources and its interpretation. The deeper and broader experience it now offers to visitors supports the basis for redesignation of this park as a national historical park.

The Department also believes that the boundary study provided by S. 961 could be very beneficial. The study would be useful in identifying important maritime-related resources in the vicinity of Salem that should be preserved and protected to enhance our understanding of the significant contributions of this area to our nation’s history.

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



**STATEMENT OF 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. 1059, A BILL TO ADJUST THE BOUNDARY OF BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**JUNE 21, 2023**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on S. 1059, a bill to adjust the boundary of Big Bend National Park in the State of Texas, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 1059 with an amendment.

S. 1059 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire lands within an approximately 6,100-acre area along the western boundary of Big Bend National Park through donation, purchase from willing sellers, or exchange. After acquisition, the boundary of the park would be adjusted to include the acquired lands.

Big Bend National Park was established by Congress in 1935 to preserve and protect the largest and most representative area of the Chihuahuan Desert in the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The park's diverse habitats from the lowlands of the Rio Grande up to the high Chisos Mountains support an extraordinary range of biological resources. The park, which currently encompasses over 800,000 acres, also includes rich geological diversity, with remarkable paleontological resources spanning 130 million years,

The 6,100-acre area that would be authorized to be included in the park by S. 1059, known as the Terlingua Creek/Rattlesnake Mountain area, contains four miles of intact rare desert riparian habitat whose protection is vital to the water quality of the Rio Grande downstream, scientifically significant paleontological resources, and important cultural resources that complement the purpose and mission of Big Bend National Park.

Over half of the lands within the proposed addition area are under contract to be purchased by the Big Bend Conservancy, the park's philanthropic partner. Lands within boundary would be eligible for acquisition for the park if landowners chose to sell or donate them at any point in the future. Support for adding this area to the park is strong in the surrounding community and with local and state government.

While the Department supports S. 1059, we recommend deleting section 3(d), which would prohibit the use of eminent domain or condemnation. Section 3(a) provides the authority to acquire land *only* from "willing sellers", which is sufficient to protect against the use of condemnation, and therefore section 3(d) is unnecessary. We would be pleased to provide a recommended amendment for this purpose.

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. 1097, 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.**

**JUNE 21, 2023**

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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. 1097, 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. 1097.

S. 1097 would redesignate the existing César E. Chávez National Monument in Keene, California as the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park. The bill would authorize the Secretary to include within the boundary of the historical park: The Forty Acres in Delano, California; the Santa Rita Center in Phoenix, Arizona; and McDonnell Hall in San Jose, California. The additional sites would only be included in the boundary upon acquisition of the land, or upon entering a written agreement with the owner of the site that the site would be managed in accordance with the Act. S. 1097 would also authorize a study to determine the feasibility of designating the approximately 300-mile march taken by farmworkers between Delano and Sacramento, California, in 1966, as the Farmworker Peregrinación National Historic Trail.

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 "¡Sí 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.

The march along the Farmworker Peregrinación route, proposed for study as a National Historic Trail, 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.

We appreciate that S. 1097 incorporates provisions that the National Park Service recommended to the version of this legislation that was introduced in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress which address the concerns that the National Park Service had with the previous version and will facilitate more effective implementation of this bill upon enactment.

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.1277, A BILL TO MODIFY THE BOUNDARY OF MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK IN THE STATE OF KENTUCKY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**JUNE 21, 2023**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on S. 1277, a bill to modify the boundary of the Mammoth Cave National Park in the State of Kentucky, and for other purposes.

The Department supports this legislation.

S. 1277 would authorize an expansion of the boundary of Mammoth Cave National Park by 980 acres and remove the statutory ceiling on appropriations for land acquisition for the park which was set at \$350,000 in 1942. The legislation would facilitate the addition of critical cave resources to the park.

Mammoth Cave National Park was established by Congress in 1926 to preserve the cave system, including Mammoth Cave, and the scenic river valleys of the Green and Nolin rivers of south-central Kentucky. This is the longest recorded cave system in the world, with over 426 miles explored and mapped. In 1981, Mammoth Cave National Park was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in recognition of its place as the most extensive cave system in the world and for its unique examples of cave and karst landscape geology. In addition, Mammoth Cave National Park preserves the habitat of several threatened and endangered species, including multiple bat species.

Two caves outside the southern boundary of Mammoth Cave National Park each have 150,000 – 200,000 hibernating federally endangered gray bats. One of the caves is federally designated as Critical Habitat for the endangered Indiana bat. In 2019, The Nature Conservancy acquired the two caves and approximately 550 acres of forested land on the surface. In 2020, Mammoth Cave National Park and The Nature Conservancy began conversations on the long-term management and ownership of the property. Both parties agreed that bringing the property under the protection of the National Park Service would be the best outcome for the preservation of the caves and bat habitat, and The Nature Conservancy expressed a willingness to sell the lands to the National Park Service. However, the land owned by The Nature Conservancy is outside of the legislatively authorized boundary of Mammoth Cave National Park and would need to be included within the park boundary before the National Park Service could acquire the lands. In addition, the existing statutory ceiling on appropriations would need to be amended to ensure that the statutory ceiling would not impede the purchase of the property by the National Park Service.

S. 1277 would expand the boundary of Mammoth Cave National Park to include the approximately 550 acres of land currently owned by The Nature Conservancy, as well as an

additional 430 acres adjoining the park's existing boundary. The additional 430 acres included within the boundary under this bill would enable the National Park Service to acquire land that would facilitate access to, and management of, the 550 acres at some point in the future should the opportunity arise.

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. 2018, A BILL TO REQUIRE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT TO IDENTIFY LOCATIONS IN NATIONAL PARKS IN WHICH THERE IS THE GREATEST NEED FOR BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE AND AREAS IN NATIONAL PARKS IN WHICH THERE IS THE GREATEST NEED FOR CELLULAR SERVICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**JUNE 21, 2023**

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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. 2018, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an assessment to identify locations in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for broadband internet access service and areas in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for cellular service, and for other purposes.

The Department supports the goal of S. 2018 to better understand and prioritize the broadband internet and cellular service needs of the National Park Service. However, because this bill was only recently introduced, the Department would appreciate having more time to evaluate the bill and work with the sponsor and Committee on amendments.

S. 2018 would direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service (NPS), to conduct an assessment of national parks to determine where there is the greatest need for broadband internet access service and cellular service. For broadband internet access service, the assessment would consider availability in housing, administrative facilities, campgrounds, and locations where that service is determined to be necessary. For cellular service, the assessment would consider areas that would increase the access of the public to emergency services, or the communications capabilities of National Park Service employees.

S. 2018 would also direct the Secretary to develop a plan, based on the results of the assessment, to install broadband internet access and cellular service infrastructure in national parks. Requirements of the plan would include consultation with local stakeholders, provide for minimal disruptions to park resources, and provide for the use of public-private partnerships among other requirements.

More than 400 units of the National Park System stretch from Guam to the Virgin Islands and from Alaska to Florida across the United States. While some parks are located in or near developed areas, others are in or near remote wilderness. The diversity in landscapes means that internet access and cell phone service vary in different parks—and can even be inconsistent within the boundaries of an individual park. Due to the remoteness of some parks, costs to provide internet and cellular service can be quite high, regardless of whether the agency or a provider takes on those costs.

The NPS provides free Wi-Fi internet service at some visitor centers and other facilities around the country. In addition, many concession operations in parks, such as lodges and restaurants, provide some form of internet for visitors, either for free or for an additional charge.

The NPS is acting in support of Executive Order 13821, *Streamlining and Expediting Requests to Locate Broadband Facilities in Rural America* and the Presidential Memorandum, *Supporting Broadband Tower Facilities in Rural America on Federal Properties Managed by the Department of the Interior*. The NPS has created a Right-of-Way (ROW) webpage to provide more information for individuals and companies interested in applying for ROW permits from the bureau, including to provide internet and cellular service. It holds a bi-annual internal training on ROW permitting process for headquarters, region, and park staff. The NPS has a national ROW permitting team and a ROW coordinator in each region to support parks in processing ROW permit applications.

All bureaus of the Department coordinate to maintain a web-based mapping application that allows users to see locations of existing federal broadband infrastructure, filter data, and add layers for analysis.

While the Department believes the assessment and plan required under this bill could be useful in focusing the NPS's efforts on its greatest internet and cellular service needs, we recommend amending S. 2018 in a few areas.

First, as defined in S. 2018, the term "National Park" means a unit of the National Park System that is designated as a "national park". While we understand that the focus of this bill is increasing internet and cellular access in the more expansive and remote parks, there are many units designated as "national recreation area", "national preserve", or similar titles that have the same access issues that many of our large remote units designated as "national parks" have. To conduct the assessment and prepare the plan proposed by this legislation fairly, we believe that all units should be included. To achieve this, we recommend amending the bill's definition of "National Park" to include all units of the National Park System.

Second, we are concerned that the bill's timeframes of 180 days and two years would not be sufficient to complete the assessment and plan, respectively, with existing resources. We recommend that the bill be amended to extend these timeframes.

Third, the bill requires consultation with parks' local stakeholders in developing the plan. We recommend that Tribes be explicitly included as consulting parties on the plan as well.

Finally, we have a number of suggested technical edits and, as mentioned previously, we may have additional recommendations upon further evaluation of S. 2018. The Department welcomes the opportunity to work with the bill's sponsor and the Committee on these amendments before the Committee acts on 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.



Senator KING. I appreciate that testimony, Mr. Caldwell, and the provisions that you mentioned in terms of further testimony being filed for the record, that will take place. That is done without objection.

On the connectivity bill that Senator Barrasso and I have recently introduced, I think I heard you to say that you understand the concept and look forward to working with us. So my request is, because we are trying to move forward with these bills, is that that process be undertaken promptly.

Mr. CALDWELL. Yes, sir.

Senator KING. So that we can determine the best way to proceed because we are really talking about public safety in this case. And so we look forward to working with the Park Service on that.

Mr. CALDWELL. Yes, we look forward to working with the Committee on that.

Senator KING. And do you have any thoughts on the question of sort of reexamining the Reserve limitation, because we seem—we are going to have more and more of these cases that are ad hoc. And it seems to me it would be useful for us, for the Committee, to have a broader consideration of these issues. Do you concur?

Mr. CALDWELL. Yes, I concur. I think the Department and the Park Service would welcome an opportunity to work with the Committee and look at those issues that you addressed in your opening statement.

Senator KING. And to be clear, it's your position—you are in favor of the suffragist memorial. It's a question of where it's located on the Mall, is that correct?

Mr. CALDWELL. Yes, we fully support the intent of the memorial. Our concern is the location in the Reserve.

Senator KING. Thank you.

Senator Daines.

Senator DAINES. Mr. Caldwell, I have a couple of questions on the Continental Divide Trail Completion Act. And I want to thank my colleague from New Mexico, Senator Heinrich, for being such a great partner, leading here, as we are kind of the Alpha and Omega here on this trail—the beginning and the end. Well, we continue to debate which is the beginning, but let's just say we both agree we need to get it done.

This trail will help increase recreation in Montana. Completing it improves safety and support for our gateway communities. It's my understanding that the Forest Service is the lead agency for the trail. The Department of the Interior and the Park Service do play critical roles though in managing the trail. Do you agree that it is important that we work together to find solutions for the gaps that remain in places like Montana and other states?

Mr. CALDWELL. Well, I think, certainly based on the Park Service experience, whether it's that trail or the less challenging Appalachian Trail from Senator Heinrich, working with communities and partners across the trail is——

Senator HEINRICH. It was a friendly jab——

Mr. CALDWELL. Okay, I got it. Yes, it is fundamental——

Senator HEINRICH. We both need to do some homework in each other's states.

Senator DAINES. Let the record show though, I support Senator Heinrich in his comments.

[Laughter.]

Mr. CALDWELL. It is fundamental to the successful administration of a trail. And I think, specific to the bill, obviously, our statement said that the BLM has taken the Department's lead, but I think your assessment, Senator, of what makes it successful is spot-on.

Senator DAINES. This trail goes through numerous national parks: Glacier Park, Yellowstone, the Rocky Mountain National Park. Does the Park Service have any stats on the economic impact of the trail on gateway communities in states like Montana?

Mr. CALDWELL. I think, in terms of specific to the trail, I would have to get back to you and the Committee on that question.

As you know, though, the economic impact of National Park Service units in the State of Montana in 2021 was almost \$730 million of economic impact. So in terms of the specifics, though, we can find out and get back to the Committee on that.

Senator DAINES. Mr. Caldwell, thank you.

Mr. Chairman, I have no more questions.

Senator KING. Questions or comments, Senator Heinrich?

Senator HEINRICH. I will direct most of my questions in writing to the BLM.

But I will have one quick question for you, Mr. Caldwell. As I mentioned in my statement, the CDT, as it currently stands, has a number of gaps in its route, totaling about 160 miles that don't have completed trail. Do you have any thoughts on how closing these gaps will allow the trail to better support the mission of National Park System units like El Malpais in New Mexico or Glacier in Montana?

Mr. CALDWELL. I think, certainly, any effort, and as you have described, a multi-agency effort to close those gaps is hugely important for the National Park Service. Having our visitors be able to find signage and trails and where they can get services is critically important for us. So we would certainly support any efforts that do that.

Senator HEINRICH. That's all. Chairman.

Senator KING. Mr. Caldwell, thank you very much for your testimony.

For those in attendance at the hearing, this is the first step of the legislative process, a hearing on the bills, and the record of this Subcommittee will remain open for two weeks from today for comments, suggestions, and support or opposition to any of the bills that have been listed on the Committee's agenda for the day.

At that point, hopefully, the next step for us will be what is called a markup of the bills where we actually meet in committee and decide about amendments and changes and which bills should be sent on to the full committee, in which case there will be another markup, and then, hopefully to the floor of the U.S. Senate.

So thank you for your attendance today.

Mr. Caldwell, thank you very much for your testimony.

This hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:56 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

OCT 21 2024

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

Dear Chairman King:

Enclosed are responses to written questions for the record submitted to the Department's witness, Michael Caldwell, Associate Director, Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands for the National Park Service, following the Subcommittee's June 21, 2023, legislative hearing. These responses were provided by the Bureau of Land Management

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this material to the Committee.

Sincerely,

Pamela L. Barkin  
Acting Legislative Counsel  
Office of Congressional and  
Legislative Affairs

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Steve Daines  
Ranking Member

**Questions for the Record**  
**Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources**  
**Subcommittee on National Parks**  
**Hearing: *Pending Legislation***  
**June 21, 2023**

**Questions from Senator Martin Heinrich**

**Question 1:** Twenty towns and counties across five states are designated as Continental Divide Trail Gateway Communities, including the first official CDT Gateway Community of Silver City, New Mexico. How will a completed National Scenic Trail benefit the economies of current and future Gateway communities, as well as those of other local communities along the trail?

**Response:** The Continental Divide Trail is an internationally known destination for hikers and completing the trail will only increase its popularity in the coming years. Access to the trail offers visitors a safe and welcoming destination that raises awareness of public land stewardship, provides an opportunity to learn, and can enhance physical and mental health. Increased popularity of the trail and visitation would make a significant economic contribution to communities along the trail.

**Question 2:** Hikers along the Continental Divide Trail currently have to walk along roads and highways to pass through the over 160 miles of gaps in the trail route. Can you describe the risks that trail diversions onto roadways present to hikers and drivers? How will closing these gaps improve public safety?

**Response:** Five percent of the trail is considered incomplete and primarily co-located on major highways or secondary roads that do not provide for the safety of hikers or the desired experience that coincides with the nature and purposes of the CDNST. Priority gaps include an area surrounding Muddy Pass near Steamboat Springs, Colorado; a section connecting the trail near Butte, Montana; and a large gap in the area of Pie Town, New Mexico. These roads and highways are in locations that traditionally do not see pedestrians and often are not designed for hikers. Vehicles often travel at high rates of speed with little to no road shoulders or right of ways. Closing these gaps with a traditional trail corridor will provide for a safe experience that minimizes these user conflicts along roads.



P.O. Box 1540  
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July 4, 2023

Senator Angus King, Chair  
National Parks Subcommittee  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Steve Daines, Ranking Member  
National Parks Subcommittee  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: National Parks Subcommittee Legislative Hearing: S. 432, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Nulhegan River and Paul Stream in the State of Vermont for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, and for other purposes; and S. 608, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Deerfield River for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, and for other purposes.

Dear Chair King and Ranking Member Daines:

On behalf of the whitewater paddling community, American Whitewater writes to express our appreciation for holding a hearing on S. 432, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Nulhegan River and Paul Stream in the State of Vermont for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, and for other purposes; and S. 608, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Deerfield River for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, and for other purposes. These legislative proposals before the Subcommittee would afford new protective designations for whitewater rivers that our members value and that protect the recreational paddling experience.

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) river conservation organization founded in 1954 with approximately 50,000 supporters, 7,000 dues-paying members, and 100 local-based affiliate clubs, representing whitewater enthusiasts across the nation. American Whitewater's mission is to protect and restore America's whitewater rivers and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. The organization is the primary advocate for the preservation and protection of whitewater rivers throughout the

*PROTECT – RESTORE – ENJOY*

United States, and connects the interests of human-powered recreational river users with ecological and science-based data to achieve the goals within its mission. Our vision is that our nation's remaining wild and free-flowing rivers stay that way, our developed rivers are restored to function and flourish, that the public has access to rivers for recreation, and that river enthusiasts are active and effective river advocates.

*Support for S. 432, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Nulhegan River and Paul Stream in the State of Vermont for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, and for other purposes.*

American Whitewater strongly supports S. 432 introduced by Senator Welch and co-sponsored by Senator Sanders. This legislation would amend Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to study an approximately 22-mile segment of the main stem of the Nulhegan River and an approximately 18-mile segment of Paul Stream for designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Nulhegan is likely Vermont's most wild watershed with no dams and conserved lands, a rarity in the Northeast. With stunning roadside remote paddling through a fen-like habitat with beaver dams and many bird species, the Nulhegan also provides whitewater paddling opportunities in the spring.

*S. 608, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Deerfield River for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, and for other purposes.*

American Whitewater strongly supports S. 608 introduced by Senator Markey and co-sponsored by Senators Warren, Sanders, and Welch. This legislation would amend Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to study the entirety of the Deerfield River including the North, South, East, and West Branches of the Deerfield River; and the major tributaries of the Deerfield River, including the Green River, North River, South River, Clesson Brook, Chickley River, Cold River, Gulf Brook, Bog Brook, and Dunbar Brook for designation as a Wild and Scenic River.

For the past 30 years, the Deerfield River has been the center of outdoor recreation and whitewater boating in Massachusetts. Recreation on the Deerfield has spawned the outdoor recreation economy in the Western Massachusetts region and led to the creation of the Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation in the Commonwealth last year. From whitewater kayaking, rafting, and tubing to fishing and biking, the Deerfield River is at the heart of it all and has improved the quality of life and economic opportunities in the region. Recreation is a central value on the Deerfield River that warrants protection as a Wild and Scenic River.

*Conclusion*

On behalf of the whitewater paddling community, thank you again for holding this hearing and the opportunity to provide testimony on these legislative proposals before the Committee. We strongly support S. 432 and S. 608. We urge you to move these bills through the Committee and to the Senate floor to ensure these spectacular river resources are protected for future generations to experience and enjoy.

Sincerely,

Bob Nasdor  
Northeast Stewardship & Legal Director  
American Whitewater  
65 Blueberry Hill Lane  
Sudbury, MA 01776  
bob@americanwhitewater.org  
617-584-4566





Committee on Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20501

June 15, 2023

Dear Chairman King and Ranking Member Daines,

I understand the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks will hold a hearing on S. 886, the Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act, on Wednesday, June 21. Thank you for your leadership in bringing up this important legislation for consideration.

I have spent nearly thirty years leading museums in the United States, and the lack of representation of women artists and women's stories has been a constant challenge. Increasing the visibility of women's history – specifically women's fight for the vote and the pioneers of the early American movement for women's equality - is crucial if we are going to change this narrative for generations to come. Great women in American history deserve to be shown on the National Mall alongside the great men, for both helped to shape who we are as a nation as well as our shared destiny to form a more perfect Union.

Thank you again for your consideration of this historic project. I hope you will support S.886. Your leadership in placing the Women's Suffrage National Monument on the National Mall--the most visited National Park in the United States-- will expand our Nation's understanding of American women's leadership in the founding and shaping of our Republic and make certain that women's contributions to American democracy continue to inspire for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nik Apostolides".

NIK APOSTOLIDES  
LECTURER, JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

**From:** Kaden McArthur <[mcarthur@backcountryhunters.org](mailto:mcarthur@backcountryhunters.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2023 4:19 PM  
**To:** Bond, Patrick (King)  
**Subject:** Anglers support S. 432 ahead of SENR subcommittee hearing tomorrow

Dear Patrick,

On behalf of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA), I want to share our support for the *Nulhegan River and Paul Stream Wild and Scenic River Study Act* ([S. 432](#)) which will be considered by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks tomorrow morning. This legislation would begin the process to consider designating 40 miles of waterways in Vermont under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Among state's wildest rivers, these waters provide important habitat for native brook trout enjoyed by sportsmen and women. Free-flowing streams are important to anglers who seek quality habitat for coldwater fish and many of us who rely upon public waters to access those opportunities.

I urge Senator King to share their support for legislation backed by sportsmen and women that would have significant benefits for the conservation of public waters such as S. 432.

If you have questions regarding our support, please feel free to reach out.

**Kaden McArthur** | Government Relations Manager  
**Backcountry Hunters & Anglers**  
Phone: 435-770-3774  
[www.backcountryhunters.org](http://www.backcountryhunters.org)

*The Voice for Our Wild Public Lands, Waters and Wildlife*

**Susan Combs**  
**4608 Eagle Feather Drive**  
**Austin, Texas 78735**  
**512/970-5599 susan@susanacombs.com**

Committee on Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20501

June 14, 2023

Dear Chairman King and Ranking Member Daines,

I understand the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks will hold a hearing on S. 886, the Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act, on Wednesday, June 21. Thank you for your leadership in prioritizing this important legislation for consideration.

Most recently, I served as the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget of the Department of the Interior. It was an honor to serve the American people and to be a leader in support of the Department of the Interior's essential mission to protect and manage the Nation's national resources and cultural heritage. On behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, while Assistant Secretary I also served as the Chair of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission throughout the centennial of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 2020. In that role, I became increasingly aware of the stark disparities in the stories that we as a Nation uplift. History is full of pioneering women, but that's not reflected in Washington or around the country. Of the 423 National Parks managed by the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service, only 10 commemorate some aspect of American women's history. That's 2.3%. We can and must do better. But only Congress has the authority to decide which monuments are placed within the National Mall, and only Congress can give this foundational American history the prominent place it has so long been denied. The 'Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act' will uphold the integrity of the National Mall by finally including women's stories in the beating heart of the Nation's Capital.

Thank you again for your consideration of this historic project. I hope you will support S.886. Your leadership in placing the Women's Suffrage National Monument on the National Mall—the most visited National Park in the United States—will expand our Nation's understanding of American women's leadership in the founding and shaping of our Republic and make certain that women's contributions to American democracy continue to inspire for generations to come.

Sincerely,  


Susan Combs

*Former Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget of the Department of the Interior*

## 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

Committee on Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20501

June 20, 2023

Dear Chairman King and Ranking Member Daines,

I understand the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks will hold a hearing on S. 886, the Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act, on Wednesday, June 21. Thank you for your leadership in prioritizing this important legislation for consideration.

Over the last 30 years, my work as an author and public historian has been dedicated to uplifting stories of courage and histories of resilience that capture important aspects of our country's complex history. And there is one simple notion I return to repeatedly in my work: the contributions to our democracy by the pioneering women of American history, like my great-grandmother, Ida B. Wells, are too often overlooked, undertaught, and underappreciated. This is why I am proud to support S.886. By locating the Women's Suffrage National Monument on the National Mall, we address important omissions and make visible the role of our foremothers in building, securing, and expanding our democracy and celebrate the great women leaders of American history who dedicated their lives to the pursuit of a more equitable and inclusive union.

Thank you again for your consideration of this historic project. I urge your support of S.886. History is counting on you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Duster".

Michelle Duster  
Author & Public Historian  
Great-Granddaughter of Pioneering Journalist and Suffragist Ida B. Wells

Dear Chairman King and Ranking Member Daines,

I understand the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks will hold a hearing on S. 886, the Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act, on Wednesday, June 21. Thank you for your leadership in bringing up this important legislation for consideration.

As a scholar of Black women's history and the biographer of the anti-lynching activist and suffragist, Ida B. Wells, I can personally attest to the importance of representing women, including women of color, through our nation's national symbols. Just as the Statue of Liberty has inspired generations of Immigrants coming to our shores, a centrally placed monument signifying the great achievement of women's suffrage-- won by courage, sacrifice, and a shared belief that all Americans are equal—will not only preserve an important historical memory, but will remind us of the sanctity of the vote. "With no sacredness of the ballot," wrote Ida B. Wells who worked for women's suffrage to not only exercise women's rights but to stop lynching and achieve Black equality, "there can be no sacredness of human life itself."

Thank you again for your consideration of this historic project. I hope you will support S.886. Your leadership in placing the Women's Suffrage National Monument on the National Mall--the most visited National Park in the United States—is so important to our shared understandings of the importance of women's rights—an understanding which in turn helps to bind us as a nation.

Sincerely,

Paula J. Giddings  
Elizabeth A. Woodson 1922 Professor (Emerita)  
Smith College  
Northampton, MA

Committee on Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20501

June 15, 2023

Dear Chairman King and Ranking Member Daines,

I understand the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks will hold a hearing on S. 886, the Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act, on Wednesday, June 21. Thank you for your leadership in prioritizing this important legislation for consideration.

Images are powerful structures of intention and memory. A monument is one of the most powerful kinds of images. It is an idea, a story, a crucial moment in time made concrete. There are few monuments of women in our country, and overall, the power and place of women has generally been disregarded. There would be no democracy without matriarchal power. The original blueprint for democracy was born in this country, in tribal governments that included the wisdom of women, the clan mothers.

Thank you again for your consideration of this historic project. I hope you will support S.886. Your leadership in placing the Women's Suffrage National Monument on the National Mall—the most visited National Park in the United States—will expand our Nation's understanding of American women's leadership in the founding and shaping of our Republic and make certain that women's contributions to American democracy continue to inspire for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joy Harjo", with a stylized, flowing script.

Joy Harjo  
23rd U.S. Poet Laureate  
Bob Dylan Center Artist-in-Residence  
Tulsa, Oklahoma



June 20, 2023

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

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Chairman King and Senator Duckworth,

On behalf of Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Chicago, we write to express our strong support of S.384, the *Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument Act*. The horrors of those August days in 1908 and ensuing national outrage contributed to a broader call for civil rights and equal justice. Until now this tragic event has largely been overlooked in U.S. history and requires national recognition.

The memorialization of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot holds an important place in contemporary Jewish thought and Jewish communal life. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, most American Jews received their daily news from Yiddish newspapers, and these newspapers reported on the Springfield Race Riot as they did on many other acts of white racist violence against Black Americans. These newspapers also reported on such acts in the very language with which the Jewish people expressed their horror at the Russian pogroms, many of which were taking place during the same period.

Central to the Jewish tradition is the imperative *zakhor* - "Thou shalt remember, Thou shalt not forget." Memorializing past acts of evil serves to honor the human dignity of the victims. Memorializing past acts of violence against Black people in America also serves as a moral imperative to help ensure that such events never happen again. To forget is to become an ally to the racists who sought to erase Black Americans. To remember and memorialize is to defeat those past and current racists.

The National Park Service is to be commended for their recognition of the Springfield site as a pivotal moment in the history of the United States and Illinois, and for the Riot's role as a catalyst in the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Indeed, several prominent Jewish Americans were founding members and early supporters of the NAACP.

We cannot turn away from this history, and we thus strongly urge passage of S.384.

Sincerely,



Lonnie Nasatir  
President, Jewish United Fund

Jewish United Fund  TOGETHER for GOOD

Ben Gurion Way • 30 South Wells Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606 • 312-346-6700 • [juf.org](http://juf.org)



“The true power of American democracy is its willingness, its determination, to better itself. This ideal can be seen, felt, and heard through the places and stories preserved and celebrated at National Mall and Memorial Parks.”

*Foundation Document for the National Mall and Memorial Parks, National Park Service, 2017*

June 21, 2023

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

In Washington, D.C., the two mile stretch of land that reaches from the U.S. Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial is known as the National Mall. It is flanked by the White House, our national cultural institutions, and the halls of government. The National Mall is where ‘we the people’ showcase our history. It is the land that holds our national memory.

Walking the grounds of the National Mall today, you will encounter war memorials and monuments honoring civil rights heroes and past presidents. You will stand in awe of the giants who have earned their place in our national story. But you won’t see the great women of American history whose bravery shaped our democracy. There are no monuments on the National Mall - the most visited National Park in the United States with 36 million annual visitors - dedicated to American women’s history. Amongst our most iconic monuments and memorials, American women’s stories are missing.

So much of their story—our story—has never been told. Until now. In 2020, Congress passed Public Law 116-217, authorizing the Women’s Suffrage National Monument Foundation to build a memorial on federal land in Washington, D.C. to share the diverse history of the women’s suffrage movement and deepen our understanding of the ideals of equality, freedom, and justice so central to the founding of our Republic.

We would like to take a moment to thank both chambers of Congress for their unanimous and bipartisan support in passing PL 116-217 and enabling the establishment of the Women’s Suffrage

National Monument. We would also like to thank the six living First Ladies, Mrs. Rosalynn Carter, Secretary Hillary Clinton, Mrs. Laura Bush, Mrs. Michelle Obama, Mrs. Melania Trump, and Dr. Jill Biden, for serving together as the Honorary Chairs of the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation and showing our daughters and granddaughters that *women's history is American history*.

We are grateful to be back in Congress today to testify in support of the merits of S.886/H.R.1318, the bipartisan and bicameral effort to place the Women's Suffrage National Monument into the monumental core of the National Mall, in the area defined in the 2003 Commemorative Works Act as "the Reserve." Thank you for allowing us to join you today, to have a voice in this essential civic dialogue, and for your consideration of this groundbreaking and glass shattering legislation.

There are two basic yet history-defining questions at the heart of today's hearing: is there room for women in the Reserve, and does the addition of a monument to the women's suffrage movement uphold and enhance the integrity of the National Mall? Our answer to both questions is, unequivocally, yes.

The Women's Suffrage National Monument will make visible the role of our foremothers in building, securing, and expanding our democracy; celebrate the suffragists' patriotism and resilience; and inspire a continued investment in America's constitutional promise of freedom, justice, and equality for all. When completed, the Women's Suffrage National Monument will tell the diverse, inclusive, and inspiring 72-year story of the American women who lobbied, marched, picketed, and protested for the right to the ballot. It will tell the story of the suffragists who were ridiculed and threatened, arrested and beaten in their pursuit for a better America. The monument will tell the story of the women who never gave up and they never gave in, and whose courage led to the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920 and the largest single expansion of voting rights in American history.

The National Mall is one of the oldest elements of today's National Park system, dating to the creation of the District of Columbia in the 1790s. It is our Nation's foremost civic space, beckoning visitors from around the world to better understand American democracy. Its significance—both symbolically in its embodiment of our country's character and ideals and physically in its vitality as a public space preserved for Americans to demonstrate their First Amendment rights—cannot be overstated. And it is our absolute belief that placing the Women's Suffrage National Monument on the National Mall, which welcomes more visitors each year than Yosemite, Yellowstone, and the Grand Canyon combined, will expand our Nation's understanding of American women's leadership in the founding and shaping of our Republic and make certain that women's contributions to American democracy continue to inspire for generations to come. By placing the Women's Suffrage National Monument

into the Reserve, Congress's leadership will center women where they have always belonged— in the monumental core of our Nation's Capital.

But is there space for a new memorial on the National Mall?

Within the Reserve, there are 39 commemorative works. A 'commemorative work' is defined in the 2003 Commemorative Works Act as "any statue, monument, sculpture, memorial, plaque, inscription, or other structure or landscape feature, including a garden or memorial grove, designed to perpetuate in a permanent manner the memory of an individual, group, event or other significant element of American history." Of the 39 commemorative works in the Reserve, *zero* (0) are dedicated to American women's history. Those 39 commemorative works include:

- 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence Memorial
- A Prayer for the Nation
- Bernard Baruch Bench of Inspiration
- Boy Scout Memorial
- Bulfinch Gateposts
- Butt-Millet Memorial
- Circle of Remembrance
- District of Columbia War Memorial
- First Air Mail Flight Marker
- First Division Monument
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
- Garfield Monument
- General Andrew Jackson Statue
- General Comte de Rochambeau Statue
- General Lafayette Statue
- General Thaddeus Kosciuszko Statue
- General Ulysses S. Grant Memorial
- General Von Steuben Statue
- General William Tecumseh Sherman Statue
- German-American Friendship Garden
- George Mason Memorial
- Global War on Terror Memorial
- Japanese Lantern
- Japanese Pagoda
- Jefferson Pier Stone
- John Ericsson Memorial
- John Paul Jones Memorial
- Korean War Veterans Memorial
- Lincoln Memorial
- Lockkeepers House
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial
- National Grange Memorial
- Peace Monument
- Professor Joseph Henry Statue
- Second Division Memorial
- Thomas Jefferson Memorial
- U.S. Park Police Horse Stables and Wells Fargo Education Center
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Washington Monument

The Reserve measures 1,030 acres. Of the 1,030 acres, 656 acres (68%) are greenspace, 210 acres (20%) are bodies of water, and 120 acres (12%) are developed with the current commemorative works listed above. To represent the role of 51% of the population in building, securing, and expanding our Nation's democracy, we are asking for one (1) acre. Imagine what it feels like to be a woman or girl in the United States and be told that there is room to "learn about horses and their history on the National Mall" and to commemorate a Swedish inventor and Scottish sailor on the National Mall, but not room to share the most profound stories and histories of American women? Imagine what it feels like to be a woman or girl in the United States and be told that, although there are 656 acres of green space in the Reserve, by asking for one acre, you may simply be asking for too much?

Women's fight for the vote is the story of a great American movement for change that led our Nation ever closer to a more perfect union. It is a story - written by women, led by women - about democracy at work and the power and courage of the American spirit. We believe this is history worthy of Congress's consideration, and history worthy of space in the most important commemorative land in America. We believe this is history that will be deeply additive to the 'America's Front Yard,' and that the building of the Women's Suffrage National Monument in the Reserve will finally fulfill the rallying cry of the suffragists, that all men *and* women are created equal. We believe this history belongs on the National Mall.

With Congress's leadership, every girl who visits our Nation's Capital will see herself in the histories we have declared as worthy of holding space in our country's most sacred public place. We thank you, sincerely, for your consideration of S.866 and for your care and stewardship of our National Parks. We look forward to continuing to work together to do the permanent, legacy building, and history-making work of bringing the Women's Suffrage National Monument to the National Mall.

Sincerely,



Anna Laymon

Executive Director, Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation

June 14, 2023

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Energy's Subcommittee on National Parks,

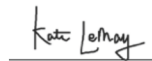
Have you ever been to a major exhibition devoted to U.S. women's history? ("Major" being more than 80 objects.) Some people have, but most people haven't. Upon reflection, most people will realize that U.S. history—as presented in public space—is a men's history. The notable exceptions were the major exhibitions about women's suffrage, on view in 2019 at the National Portrait Gallery, the Library of Congress and the National Archives. Women's history was, for the first time, *visibly* valued. Now, you might ask yourself: why did it take until 2019? In fact, it was not until 2019, when the book *Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence* was published, that a comprehensive book accounted for the long history of women's struggle for the right to vote. (Eleanor Flexner published the previous book to do so, *Century of Struggle: The Women's Rights Movement in the United States*, in 1959).

So, where would people learn that *women* staged one of the longest social reform movements *in the history of the United States*? In 2019, visitors to Washington, D.C., discovered for the first time that the history of women's suffrage is not a boring history of nagging spinsters; but that it is an exciting history of revolution staged by political geniuses. The men and women of the suffrage movement were the original rule breakers; they are the historical equivalent to the activists that we esteem and admire today for speaking out for their rights.

Indeed, the way educators in the United States frame women's history in general needs attention. In 2017, the National Women's History Museum revealed that of the 178 individual women named in state standards for education in middle and high school textbooks, four of them were non-U.S. women (like Margaret Thatcher) and two were not even real women (such as Rosie the Riveter).

How are women to be valued in American society when there is not even a monument to their history on the National Mall? Animating this undervalued history with the greatest impact is something that only a well-thought out, beautifully designed monument can do. This letter is meant to express my full support of building a monument to U.S. women's suffrage on the National Mall.

Sincerely,



Kate Clarke Lemay, PhD  
Historian, National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

Committee on Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20501

June 16, 2023

Dear Chairman King and Ranking Member Daines,

I understand the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks will hold a hearing on S. 886, the Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act, on Wednesday, June 21. Thank you for your leadership in prioritizing this important legislation for consideration.

I have written dozens of books that share America's histories and uplift American heroes, and I have learned that too often, women's stories are undervalued, untold, and considered footnotes and sidebars to the larger story. It is a mistake that we as a country cannot afford to continue to make. It is long past time that the great women of American history be permanently recognized for their contributions to America's democracy in our Nation's most important commemorative corridor, and with your leadership, I look forward to the day when I can stand with my daughter on the National Mall and proudly show her that her country values *who she is* and *who she will be*. I hope we can count on your support of S.886.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brad Meltzer".

Brad Meltzer  
Author & Historian

Committee on Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20501

June 14, 2023

Dear Chairman King and Ranking Member Daines,

I understand the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks will hold a hearing on S. 886, the Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act, on Wednesday, June 21. Thank you for your leadership in prioritizing this important legislation for consideration.

Without a monument to the great women of American history who paved the way for us to fully participate in and shape our democracy, the telling of the American story on our National Mall is not yet complete. It will be a proud day for our country when every girl who visits the National Mall is able to see herself represented amongst the giants of our national story and understand the role of her foremothers in building, securing, and expanding our democracy.

Your leadership in placing the Women's Suffrage National Monument on the National Mall—the most visited National Park in the United States—will expand our Nation's understanding of American women's leadership in the founding and shaping of our Republic and make certain that women's contributions to American democracy continue to inspire for generations to come.

As the longest serving woman in congressional history, I proudly stand on the shoulders of the suffragists who fought bravely and boldly for generations to secure women's political equality and urge your support of S.886.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Barbara Mikulski".

Senator Barbara Mikulski (Ret.)





**NPCA Position on Legislation before the National Parks Subcommittee  
of the Committee on Energy & Natural Resources**

June 20, 2023

Dear Senator,

Since 1919, the 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 1.6 million members and supporters nationwide, we write to share our thoughts on select legislation ahead of a hearing in the Committee on Energy & Natural Resources, National Parks Subcommittee scheduled for June 21, 2023.

**S. 924 – Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission Extension Act:** NPCA **supports** this bill to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission. For more than 40 years, the C&O Canal National Historical Park Advisory Commission has served as a connector between the National Park Service and the many communities that surround the park. C&O Canal National Historical Park is unique because it includes a historic towpath, heavily used for recreation, that extends 184.5 miles through the District of Columbia, Maryland and West Virginia. The Advisory Commission plays an important role in engaging states and local municipalities in operations, maintenance and restoration efforts. Extending the Commission for an additional 10 years is critical as visitation continues to increase—which now exceeds 5 million hikers, campers, bicyclists and history enthusiasts annually.

**S. 1059 – Big Bend National Park Boundary Adjustment Act:** NPCA **supports** this legislation which would adjust the boundary of Big Bend National Park to include the Terlingua Creek property and bring a rare new water source and sensitive cultural resources ranging from prehistoric fossils to historic runs under the protection of the National Park Service. Big Bend National Park is a treasured destination for Texans and visitors from all over the world, preserving breathtaking landscapes rich in desert wildlife and thousands of years of history. The soaring vistas, epic hikes and some of the darkest skies in the world brought 581,000 visitors, a record number, to the park in 2021 and increased visitation by 76% over the last decade. This addition will enhance the protection of the park, bring inholdings into the boundaries, will not increase park management cost and provide a much-needed buffer from any potential development along the park's western edge, ensuring the iconic and inspirational park will remain protected for generations to come to enjoy.

**S. 1097 – César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park Act:** NPCA **supports** this legislation, which would establish a historical park to preserve and interpret the stories of the Latinos, Filipinos, women and numerous other groups that fought alongside César Chávez and helped found the United Farm Workers (UFW), one of the most consequential movements of the 20th Century. The new park would include sites in Arizona and California and build 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 examination of a potential 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 and their harsh conditions and meager pay. César Chávez and the Farmworker Movement

**NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION**

777 6<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001 | 800.628.7275 | [npca.org](https://npca.org)



transformed agriculture and labor organizing in the American West and brought dignity, fair pay and better working conditions to hundreds of thousands of workers.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Christina Hazard  
Legislative Director  
National Parks Conservation Association

**NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION**

777 6<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001 | 800.628.7275 | [npca.org](http://npca.org)

## National Sculpture Society

6 East 39<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 903 • New York, NY 10016  
212.764.5645 fax-212.764.5651 [nationalsculpture.org](http://nationalsculpture.org)

• Founded 1893 •

Gwen Pier, Executive Director

June 13, 2023

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources' Subcommittee on National Parks  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Regarding Hearing scheduled on Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Specifically: S. 886, to authorize the location of a monument on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the women's suffrage movement and the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, and for other purposes.

Dear Senators:

I am writing to ask for your support of the site location on the National Mall for a monument in recognition of the women's suffrage movement and the resulting passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution. That momentous event in our nation's history should be commemorated on a prominent site in our nation's capital.

It astounds me to think that my grandmother and great-aunts were born in a country – this country - where women did not have a political voice. As you know, the women's suffrage movement began 176 years ago when a group of people gathered in Seneca Falls, New York. Over the next seven decades, the extraordinary efforts of a diverse group of (mostly) women from across the country, single and married, wealthy and poor, of all colors and backgrounds, led the effort to secure the right of women to vote. Many who devoted the good part of their lives to realizing this basic right did not live to know the results of their efforts. Just 102 years ago, congress passed the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution.

This proposed monument will be a tribute to the bold women and men that championed equality in this country, through imprisonment, hunger strikes, steadfast organizing and educating.

I respectfully request that we, as a nation, celebrate the great work and achievement of the women's suffrage movement with a monument on the National Mall. On the proposed site, countless citizens of our nation and visitors to our capital will see it and be reminded that all Americans play an important role in our society.

Sincerely yours,

Gwen Pier  
Executive Director, National Sculpture Society

Committee on Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20501

June 15, 2024

Dear Chairman King and Ranking Member Daines,

I understand the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks will hold a hearing on S. 886, the Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act, on Wednesday, June 21. Thank you for your leadership in bringing up this important legislation for consideration.

I am Dr. Ashley Robertson Preston, an Assistant Professor of History at Howard University and supporter of the monument. As someone who specializes in Black women's history, I feel that this is one of the most significant efforts of the century. We have an opportunity to teach future generations about courageous women who have been largely overlooked in the American narrative. These women deserve to be on the National Mall alongside other history makers to assure that they are never forgotten again.

Thank you again for your consideration of this historic project. I hope you will support S.886. Your leadership in placing the Women's Suffrage National Monument on the National Mall--the most visited National Park in the United States-- will expand our Nation's understanding of American women's leadership in the founding and shaping of our Republic and make certain that women's contributions to American democracy continue to inspire for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Ashley Robertson Preston, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of History at Howard University

**STATEMENT OF  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE—FOREST SERVICE  
BEFORE THE  
UNITED STATES SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
June 21, 2023  
Concerning**

**S. 594 Continental Divide Trail Completion Act**

Chairman Manchin, Ranking Member Barrasso, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on S. 594, the “Continental Divide Trail Completion Act.” The objective of the bill is to prioritize completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST or Trail).

Designated in 1978, the CDNST stretches 3,100 miles from the deserts of New Mexico to the alpine peaks of the northern Rockies and traverses stunning and diverse landscapes. The Trail connects many of the defining moments and movements in our nation’s history along the spine of the continent.

USDA supports the goals of S. 594 and would like to work with the Committee and bill sponsors to address the concerns identified in this testimony. Completing land acquisition for the CDNST meets Congress’s intent in designating the Trail in 1978. USDA is committed to working with its partners to achieve this goal. USDA defers to the U.S. Department of the Interior regarding provisions in the bill affecting management of lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service.

**Section 3(a) – Completion of the Trail**

This section of the bill would require the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to substantially conclude acquisition of land or interests in land necessary to complete the Trail by the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary (November 10, 2028) of its designation. The intended acquisitions of land or interests in land under this bill would focus on meeting the nature and purposes of the CDNST, which are to provide for high-quality, scenic, and primitive hiking and horseback riding and to conserve natural, historic, and cultural resources along the CDNST corridor. No additional funding would be authorized by the bill to substantially complete the Trail.

USDA supports the need to substantially complete the CDNST but has concerns with meeting the proposed timeline to meet this goal by the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Trail. Progress towards this goal is in large part determined by private landowners’ willingness to sell or lease their property or put it under a conservation easement. Approximately 95% of the CDNST is protected on lands in public or tribal ownership or through easements across private lands. The 5% of the Trail that is incomplete and on which this bill is focused is primarily co-located on major highways or secondary roads that do not provide for the safety of hikers or meet the nature and purposes of the CDNST. This work has not been completed due to lack of dedicated staff

and funding, as well as a lack of willing sellers in some areas. Once the optimal location review for the Trail is completed, we expect to have a better idea of the workload for acquisition of land and interests in land and could then establish a manageable timeline for completion.

### **Section 3(b) – Trail Completion Team**

This section of the bill would establish an interagency team to work with the Trail Administrator (USDA's Forest Service) to facilitate optimal location of additional segments for completion of the Trail. USDA supports establishment of an interagency team consisting of USDA's Forest Service and the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management to work on conveyances of land and interests in land for completing the Trail. The work described in section 3(b)(2) under "Duties of the Team" would best be suited to the Trail Administrator, specialists with skills such as geographic information system mapping, lands and reality management, cadastral surveying, landscape architecture, and natural resource management, and key partners such as the Continental Divide Trail Coalition.

USDA is concerned about the consultation requirement for the Trail Completion Team in section 3(b)(2)(C). This subsection would require the Team to consult with other federal agencies, affected Indian Tribes, Governors of affected States, local governments, affected landowners, land grant-mercedes, acequias, applicable owners or users of a land grant-merced or acequia, the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, and other volunteer and nonprofit organizations. "Consultation" as it pertains to federal agencies has a specific meaning when relating to federally recognized Indian Tribes. Tribal consultation is a government-to-government process between sovereigns that involves receiving input from Indian Tribes regarding proposed federal actions or policies that have Tribal implications. USDA is committed to collaboration and transparency that address the unique needs of all the entities listed in section 3(b)(2)(C), but seeks to avoid misinterpretation or dilution of its obligation to federally recognized Tribes as sovereign nations through use of the term "consult" in the bill. USDA would like to work with the bill sponsors and the Committee to differentiate work with non-Tribal entities from work with federally recognized.

### **Section 3(c) – Comprehensive Development Plan**

This section would require the Secretary of Agriculture to submit to Congress a comprehensive development plan for the CDNST within two years. This plan would have to identify gaps in the CDNST where the Secretaries have been unable to acquire land or interests in land, a plan for closing the gaps, and general and site-specific development plans, including anticipated costs, for closing the gaps.

USDA supports addressing gaps in the Trail in a planning document but has concerns with the term "comprehensive development plan," as it may be confused with the CDNST comprehensive plan, which is already in place, as well as concerns with the requirement for site-specific development plans, which would be difficult to complete in the required timeframe due to the need for interagency and partner coordination and anticipated environmental reviews.

**Section 3(d) – Methods of Acquisition of Land or Interests in Land**

This section would specify methods of acquisition of land or interests in land for the Trail. USDA supports these methods of acquisition of land or interests in land from willing sellers, lessors, or grantors.

**Section 3(e) – Maintaining Partnerships**

This section would require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Trail Completion Team to maintain partnerships with volunteer and nonprofit organizations that assist with development, maintenance, and management of the CDNST. USDA supports this section, although it is redundant with existing cooperative authority in the National Trails System Act.

**Section 3(f) – Reports**

This section would require the Secretary of Agriculture to submit an annual progress report to Congress until the acquisition of land or interests in land for the CDNST is complete. USDA supports submission of an annual progress report to Congress but requests flexibility to deliver this report as a briefing rather than as a written report.

**Conclusion**

USDA supports the goals of S. 594 and would like the opportunity to work with the Committee and bill sponsors to address the concerns identified by the Department.

**Statement for the Record  
Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Senate Energy & Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks**

**S. 594, Continental Divide Trail Completion Act**

**June 21, 2023**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S. 594, Continental Divide Trail Completion Act. S. 594 directs the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to complete the 3,100-mile Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) by November 10, 2028, – the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the trail’s designation. The bill also establishes a joint U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Trail Completion Team to facilitate the voluntary acquisitions, rights-of-ways and conservation easements needed to complete the trail.

On January 27, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*, which launched a government-wide effort to confront climate change and restore balance on public lands and waters. The President’s directive recognizes the opportunities America’s lands and waters offer and outlines a historic and ambitious challenge to the nation to conserve at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030. The CDNST provides a place to reconnect with nature by offering high quality hiking, horseback-riding, and other recreational opportunities along the Continental Divide. The Department of the Interior (Department) supports S. 594 as it aligns with our priorities to provide safe and equitable access to outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans. We believe the bill has the potential to address some long-standing challenges, and we look forward to working with the sponsors and the Committee on minor modifications. We defer to the Department of Agriculture regarding provisions affecting the management of lands administered by the Forest Service.

**Background**

In 1968, Congress established the National Trails System Act to create trails in both urban and rural settings for people of all ages, interests, skills, and physical abilities. Today, there are 30 congressionally designated National Scenic and Historic Trails, many within an hour’s drive from most urban areas. The lands these trails traverse often have complex jurisdictions, which requires substantial partnering among Federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and dedicated volunteers.

In 1978, Congress added the CDNST to the National Trails System and identified a corridor straddling along the backbone of the North American continent – the Divide – for the future placement of the CDNST. The entire CDNST corridor is approximately 3,100 miles long, extending from the Canadian border in Montana to the border of Mexico in New Mexico. Today, the completed portions of the CDNST traverse approximately 2,100 miles of Forest Service-managed lands, 400 miles of BLM-managed lands, 260 miles of National Park Service-managed lands, 60 miles of State lands, and 2 miles of Tribal lands. The trail was designated for its scenic



significance and is considered the “King of Trails,” more difficult than its sister long distance trails, the Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails. It navigates dramatically diverse ecosystems through mountain meadows, granite peaks, and high-desert surroundings.

#### **S. 594**

S. 594 requires the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to ensure the completion of the CDNST as a contiguous route, to the maximum extent possible, by November 10, 2028. To complete and optimize the trail, the bill establishes the Trail Completion Team composed of Forest Service and BLM employees. The Trail Completion Team is directed to carry out land and right-of-way acquisitions, easement acquisitions, relocations, and trail construction activities required for completion. Lastly, S. 594 requires the Secretary of Agriculture to submit a Comprehensive Development Plan to Congress that identifies and plans the elimination of trail gaps, and submit annual reports to Congress.

The Department supports the completion of the CDNST and has consistently worked towards this goal since its designation. Today, only 5 percent of the trail remains incomplete. The Department supports the creation of the Trail Completion Team to resolve long-standing barriers to completing the remainder of the trail. The Department notes that success of achieving the Sponsor’s intent to complete the CDNST, on or before the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its designation, is dependent on strong community-led efforts to work with willing landowners to connect the lands through means such as of a rights-of-ways, access and conservation easements, and acquisition of land. The Department acknowledges the challenges in completing the final portion of the trail given the presence of private lands within the trail corridor and is committed to completing the trail to the maximum extent possible, as provided by the bill.

Finally, the Department defers to the Department of Agriculture on provisions of the bill related to the Comprehensive Development Plan and reporting requirements.

#### **Conclusion**

The Department supports S. 594, and we would welcome the opportunity to work with the sponsor and the Committee on minor modifications to the bill.

The  
Matilda Joslyn Gage  
Foundation

June 15, 2023



Committee on Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20501

June 16, 2024

Dear Chairman King and Ranking Member Daines,

I understand the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks will hold a hearing on S. 886, the Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act, on Wednesday, June 21. Thank you for your leadership in bringing up this important legislation for consideration.

Suffragist Matilda Joslyn Gage in 1876 charged that the United States was not a Republic, based on the consent of the governed, it was an "oligarchy of sex" with women being ruled by their "brothers, their fathers, their husbands and even their sons." The enactment of an amendment ensuring votes for women has rightly been labeled the second American Revolution. The creation of a monument on the National Mall recognizing this critical moment is essential to establishing a legacy of historic accuracy celebrating the history of American's democracy.

Thank you again for your consideration of this historic project. I hope you will support S.886. Your leadership in placing the Women's Suffrage National Monument on the National Mall--the most visited National Park in the United States-- will expand our Nation's understanding of American women's leadership in the founding and shaping of our Republic and make certain that women's contributions to American democracy continue to inspire for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Sally Roesch Wagner, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

**THE MATILDA JOSLYN  
GAGE FOUNDATION**

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Fayetteville, New York 13066  
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Committee on Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20501  
June 16, 2024

Dear Chairman King and Ranking Member Daines,

I look forward to joining you when your subcommittee holds a hearing on S. 886, the Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act, on Wednesday, June 21. I appreciate your leadership in bringing this important piece of legislation before the subcommittee for consideration.

I am the author of *The Woman's Hour*--about the suffragists' long and arduous battle to expand American democracy. Three generations of American women-- in every state, of every age, class, race, and religion--fought for seven decades, in over 900 federal and state campaigns, to win the right to vote. They dedicated their lives and fortunes to the cause of American government "by and for the people." They risked their reputations and their safety--were denounced, insulted, physically attacked, and imprisoned --for demanding that their country live up to its sacred democratic ideals. With the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, the suffragists accomplished the largest, non-violent expansion of the franchise in history.

The suffragists believed in American democracy, they fought and sacrificed for it. They are truly American patriots and heroes, and they deserve to stand among the other patriots and heroes honored on the National Mall. By including the Women's Suffrage National Monument on the grounds of the National Mall in our nation's capital, generations of Americans will gain a greater understanding of American women's leadership in the shaping of our Republic, and an appreciation for the suffragists' dedication to creating "a more perfect union."

Thank you again for your consideration of this historic project. I hope you and your colleagues will support S.886 to place the Women's Suffrage National Monument on the National Mall

Sincerely,

Elaine Weiss



June 19, 2023

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

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

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

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

Dear Chairman Manchin, Ranking Member Barrasso, Subcommittee on National Parks  
Chairman King, and Ranking Member Daines:

I am writing on behalf of the Deerfield River Watershed Association to urge your support for S. 608.

The Windham Regional Commission Natural Resources Committee is writing to encourage your support for S.608. This bill, if passed, would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Deerfield River for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

The Deerfield River Watershed is a bi-state watershed that unites the communities on both sides of the Vermont and Massachusetts border. It is one of the region's most beautiful and special natural treasures. The Deerfield River deserves national designation for many reasons, including some of the best fly fishing in the East, wilderness hiking and camping opportunities, and it brings visitors to our region to enjoy its natural beauty.

A Wild and Scenic designation would be in-line with the Windham Regional Plan, adopted in September 2014. The committee voted to support the Deerfield River Watershed Alliance and partners to seek Congressional authorization and funds for a planning study to evaluate whether portions of the Deerfield River can be designated as a National Wild and Scenic River.

National Wild and Scenic River designation would support the following goals and policies of the Windham Regional Plan.

- The WRC will encourage protection of scenic viewsheds and provide assistance to towns in designating and protecting specific viewshed locations in the region.
- Encourage towns to identify their scenic resources and support efforts for their enhancement and maintenance.

We understand that designating segments of the Deerfield River as a National Wild and Scenic River would protect the river from new federally permitted dams and provide much needed federal funding for river improvement or restoration projects.

We look forward to working with the Deerfield River Watershed Association as this process advances to protect the Deerfield River.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Company", with a stylized flourish at the end.

L. Christopher Company,  
Executive Director



## Amigos de Guadalupe

Center for Justice & Empowerment

June 19, 2023

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: *Urging Support of S.1097 - Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park Act***

Dear Senators Padilla and Feinstein,

*Amigos de Guadalupe Center for Justice and Empowerment*, based in East San Jose, California, **strongly supports S. 1097**, being heard by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks on June 21, 2023. We respectfully request this letter be submitted for 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. 1097. 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 the occasion of Amigos de Guadalupe acquiring the historic Chavez Family Home at 53 Scharff Avenue in San Jose, California - it is 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. 1097 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





1119 K STREET, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR  
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June 29, 2023

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  
 307 Dirksen Senate Building  
 Washington, DC 20515

**RE: S. 1097, 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. 1097 (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. 1097. 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

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## California State Senate

SENATOR  
DAVE CORTESE  
FIFTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

CHAIR  
LABOR, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
& RETIREMENT

COMMITTEES  
EDUCATION  
HOUSING  
TRANSPORTATION

June 28, 2023



The Honorable Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Raul Ruiz  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Padilla and Feinstein and Congressman Ruiz:

Thank you for your commitment to honoring the visibility of our diverse American history in our national parks. I am writing to express support for establishing the Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park.

In 2013, after years of study, the National Park Service recommended that Congress establish a national historical park that would include the Cesar Chavez National Monument and other sites that tell the story of Cesar Chavez and the farmworker movement. Establishing such a park is an opportunity to spread the legacy, vision and achievements of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement to audiences around the country.

The establishment of a Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park would pay tribute to one of the most influential leaders in U.S. history, while teaching Americans about the transformational leader and his struggle for justice for farmworkers. The historical park will provide opportunities to inspire and educate all Americans.

It is crucial that our national parks represent the diversity of America and respect the rich heritage of its people. Establishing a national historical park honoring Cesar Chavez and the farm worker movement would help fulfill this vision. Please honor the legacy of the farm labor movement and support legislation to establish the Cesar E. Chavez and the American Farmworker National Historical Park.

Thank you again for your commitment to honoring our American heritage.

Sincerely,

Dave Cortese  
California State Senate  
15<sup>th</sup> District

# LATINOS

IN HERITAGE CONSERVATION

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Sehila Mota Casper  
Austin, TX

June 20, 2023

**Transmitted via email**  
The Honorable Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Desiree Aranda  
Phoenix, AZ

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sara Delgadillo  
Los Angeles, CA

**Re: Support for S.1097 – César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park Act**

Valerie Delgadillo  
Los Angeles, CA

Dear Senator Padilla and Senator Feinstein:

Laura Domínguez  
Los Angeles, CA

On behalf of Latinos in Heritage Conservation, I write to express our strong support for S.1097 establishing a National Historical Park interpreting the life and work of César Chávez and the history of the Farmworker Movement he led alongside Dolores Huerta, Larry Itliong, and so many other heroic men and women.

Anna Lisa Escobedo  
San Francisco, CA

Sarah Zenaída Gould, PhD  
San Antonio, TX

Marta Martínez  
Providence, RI

Writer and historian Wallace Stegner famously called national parks “the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst.” The 424 units of the national park system preserve our natural, historical, and cultural heritage; they offer vital spaces for teaching, learning, and outdoor recreation; and they fuel job creation and economic growth. When allowed to reach their full potential, they can help bind Americans together — strengthening a unity we must have as we continue to confront the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Steven Moreno-Terrill  
San Diego, CA

Maira Nadal  
Washington, DC

Tiffany Narváez  
Los Angeles, CA

Our colleagues in the National Park Service have long embraced their role as “America’s storytellers,” yet we know their efforts are constrained in many ways. For example, nearly 33 percent of national park units focus on war and violent conflict, and fewer than 20 percent focus primarily on women, communities of color, or other historically marginalized groups — not nearly enough to fully tell “America’s story” and, therefore, to attract, educate, and serve America’s increasingly diverse population. It is perhaps not surprising that only one in five visitors to our national park sites is a person of color and only one in ten is Latina/o.

Raymond Rast, PhD  
New York, NY

Diego Robayo  
Spokane, WA

Edward Torrez, AIA  
Chicago, IL

In submitting its *Cesar Chavez Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment* to Congress in 2013, the National Park Service recommended the creation of a National Historical Park that would include Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz (Keene, CA), Forty Acres (Delano, CA), the Santa Rita Center (Phoenix, AZ), and other nationally significant sites associated with Chávez’s life and work and with the broader history of the Farmworker Movement. In 2012, President Obama established the César E. Chávez National Monument at Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz, but the work remains unfinished, and the full story of post-1945 civil rights and labor rights struggles remains incomplete.

Betty Villegas  
Tucson, AZ

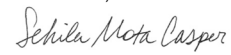
Our national parks must fully represent the diversity of American society and the complexity of American history, for our struggles and our triumphs are not the stuff of margins but the core tapestry of our national identity. My organization thanks you for honoring our stories, and we embrace the opportunity to partner with you in championing creation and development of this timely, if not overdue, National Historical Park.

**About Latinos in Heritage Conservation (LHC)**

Founded in 2014, LHC is the leading organization for the preservation of Latino places, stories, and cultural heritage in the United States. We are a diverse network of intergenerational advocates conserving Latino sites and living cultures in the fabric of American society, affirming the value of our history in the hemispheric struggle for social justice.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Atentamente,



Sehila Mota Casper  
Executive Director  
Latinos in Heritage Conservation



TO:  
 The Honorable Alex Padilla  
 United States Senate  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Raul Ruiz  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
 United States Senate Washington,  
 D.C. 20510

DATE: June 26, 2023

Dear Senators Padilla and Feinstein and Congressman Ruiz:

Thank you for your commitment to honoring the visibility of our diverse American history in our national parks. I'm writing to express support for establishing the Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park.

In 2013, after years of study, the National Park Service recommended that Congress establish a national historical park that would include the Cesar Chavez National Monument and other sites that tell the story of Cesar Chavez and the farmworker movement. Establishing such a park is an opportunity to spread the legacy, vision and achievements of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement to audiences around the country. In San José, we are proud to honor Cesar Chavez's legacy through the dedication of the Plaza de Cesar Chavez and the preservation of the home he lived in with his family during some of the early days of his organizing with the Community Service Organization in the 1950's.

The establishment of a Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park would pay tribute to one of the most influential leaders in U.S. history, while teaching Americans about the transformational leader and his struggle for justice for farmworkers. The historical park will provide opportunities to inspire and educate all Americans.

It is crucial that our national parks represent the diversity of America and respect the rich heritage of its people. Establishing a national historical park honoring Cesar Chavez and the farm worker movement would help fulfill this vision. Please honor the legacy of the farm labor movement and support legislation to establish the Cesar E. Chavez and the American Farmworker National Historical Park.

Thank you again for your commitment to honoring our American heritage.

Sincerely,

Matt Mahan  
 Mayor, City of San José



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 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.

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  
[www.COGIC.org](http://www.COGIC.org)

Walter Katz: Making site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot a monument would honor victims and inspire change – Chicago Tribune

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/2023/03/10/walter-katz-making-site-of-the-1908-springfield-race-riot-a-monument-would-honor-victims-and-inspire-change/>

OPINION

## Walter Katz: Making site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot a monument would honor victims and inspire change



By **WALTER KATZ**

UPDATED: March 10, 2023 at 10:37 PM CST

U.S. Sens. Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth have introduced legislation to memorialize the 1908 Springfield Race Riot by making its site a national monument. It's not a minute too soon. In fact, many outside of Illinois are unfamiliar with this tragic piece of American history — even after a renewed focus on historic racial violence including widespread commemoration of the century mark of the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921.

The terrifying event was incited by the arrest of two Black men after they were accused of crimes against two young white women and the father of one of the women. Before the two could be tried, an angry white mob, enraged by inflammatory press coverage, attempted to lynch them, only to learn the sheriff had secretly transferred them out of the city for their protection. The mob proceeded to burn and terrorize the Black neighborhoods of Springfield, killing residents and destroying businesses.

Over the past few years, Springfield residents, especially the local NAACP, have done a masterful job telling this story, remembering the victims and garnering bipartisan support for the Durbin-Duckworth legislation. Advocates are also urging the president to take executive action under the Antiquities Act.

While I have yet to find anyone who opposes these efforts, I'm sure some skeptics may ask, "Why insist on bringing up the past?"

For me, and the thousands of Black Americans connected to this tragedy, it's not just the past. It's personal. William Donnegan, my great-great-granduncle, was murdered during the riot.

For the first few decades of my life, I was unaware of my relationship to William or the tragedy in Springfield. I was born in Chicago and placed for adoption as a newborn. At 7 months old, I joined my



new family — part of the last generation of babies who came out of orphanages. My adoption was sealed, so I had no way to learn the identity of my birth mother.

Roughly 10 years ago, the law changed so that if both the parent and child waive confidentiality, both can have access to the original birth certificate. I found my birth mother through an ancestry investigation and Facebook, where I reached out to her with the simple words, “I think you’re my mom.”

From this reunion, I unlocked the incredible history of my family. My maternal grandmother’s family hailed from Christian County, in western Kentucky. The matriarch, Lee Ann Donnegan, was born in 1794 and had seven children. Spencer, my great-great-great-grandfather was the oldest boy.

Though the circumstances are unknown, Lee Ann and her family were emancipated in the 1840s. Records show that she bought the freedom of her husband, and they all moved across the Ohio River to southern Illinois. Two of her sons, Spencer and William, were involved in the Underground Railroad. Spencer was a barber and founding pastor of Springfield’s first African Methodist Episcopal Church. William was a shoemaker. Press accounts in 1908 note that he made shoes for Abraham Lincoln.

On the first day of the riot, the white mob burned homes in predominantly Black neighborhoods and lynched Scott Burton, an older man. William was married to a white woman and thought that would make him a target. He asked for protection from the sheriff or the militia, but none came. On the second day, the rioters came for him. The mob dragged him from his house, cut his throat and hung him in a tree. He died the following day in a hospital — a retired 80-year-old man who had built successful businesses and helped people escape slavery and was a pillar of his community.

William was laid to rest in the same cemetery as Lincoln, the Great Emancipator — albeit in what was then called the “colored section.” His murder garnered national attention and helped spur the creation of the NAACP on Feb. 12, 1909.

Long before learning my family’s story, I felt called to help eliminate racial injustice and seek fairness and accountability through reforms to our broken justice system. From my 17 years as a public defender in California to my work with communities on the South and West sides of Chicago, I have seen what happens when the call for help and justice is not answered. I have designed and implemented evidence-based violence prevention and police accountability strategies.

We have made great strides in this country on bipartisan criminal justice reforms, violence reduction policies and police reforms that advance racial equity and make our communities safer.

And yet, more than a century after the Springfield Race Riot, through Jim Crow, redlining, the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., all the way to the senseless murder of George Floyd and beyond, Black people are still calling to be safe.

So why dredge up the past? Because it is reflected in our present. And to change hearts and minds and enact critical reforms, we must continue to lift these stories, constant reminders of how far we’ve come, and how far we must go.

I can think of no better way to honor the memory of the victims of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot, including my great-great-great-granduncle William, than by passing the bill that would create a monument. Doing so can help us work toward the day when the senseless killings of Black men are not the norm, and history stops repeating itself.

*Walter Katz is vice president of criminal justice at the philanthropic organization Arnold Ventures.*

*Originally Published:* March 10, 2023 at 2:37 PM CST

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/2023/03/10/walter-katz-making-site-of-the-1908-springfield-race-riot-a-monument-would-honor-victims-and-inspire-change/>



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

## DESIGNATE SPRINGFIELD 1908 RACE RIOT NATIONAL MONUMENT



*Support for*

### Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument

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## Fact Sheets

## Springfield NAACP Fact Sheet

## DESIGNATE SPRINGFIELD 1908 RACE RIOT NATIONAL MONUMENT



Starting on August 14, 1908, a white mob attacked and lynched Black people and burned their homes in Springfield, Illinois, within blocks of the former home of Abraham Lincoln.

As one of the country's worst examples of mass racial violence, the Springfield Race Riot generated outrage which led to the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909.

Despite our nation's long history of race riots and thousands of lynchings, the National Park Service (NPS) does not have any parks that tell these terrible stories or the birth of the NAACP and the courage of Ida B. Wells-Barnett who fought to stop racial violence.

Thanks to the leadership of the Springfield Branch of the NAACP and local community, the City of Springfield has pledged to donate city property to the United States to establish the National Monument. The property includes the foundations of African American homes that were burned in the riot.

President Biden has the power to designate the National Monument to acknowledge this terrible chapter in our history and to help our nation heal and learn.

### ***President Biden, Springfield is ready.***

*Our community is united and requests your leadership to help our nation move forward. We ask you to listen to our voices and fill in a critical gap in the National Park System.*

*By using the Antiquities Act, you can help unite our nation, advance racial justice, and build on the legacy of Abraham Lincoln.*

### **Teresa Haley**

*President, Springfield Branch, NAACP*



### The proposed monument enjoys strong bipartisan support:



*The Springfield site would be the first national park to tell the story of Ida B. Wells-Barnett. Her famous 1909 speech, "Lynching Our National Crime," addressed the tragic events in Springfield.*

- In 2018, Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL) asked the NPS to conduct a Reconnaissance Survey. In 2019, NPS found that the site likely meets NPS criteria.
- In 2020, Congress passed bipartisan legislation to authorize a Special Resource Study (SRS). Secretary David Bernhardt added the site to the African American Civil Rights Network.
- In 2021, the IL Congressional delegation introduced bipartisan legislation to authorize the Monument.
- Sens. Duckworth & Durbin and Republican House members asked Pres. Biden to proclaim a Monument.
- Following the Springfield NAACP public meeting in August 2022, the NPS found overwhelming public support for the Monument.



#### Questions:

Teresa Haley:  
[thaley@springfieldnaacp.org](mailto:thaley@springfieldnaacp.org)

Springfield Branch NAACP:  
<http://springfieldnaacp.org>

Phone: 217-789-2721

December 1, 2022





African American residents standing near some of the residences burned during the 1908 race riot. Photo: Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library.

## Designate Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument

On August 14, 1908 one of the most violent race riots in America's history occurred in Springfield, Illinois, impacting this community for decades. The riot was prompted by the transfer of a Black prisoner, who was falsely charged of rape by a white woman. This enraged a white mob, which brutally lynched Black residents and destroyed significant portions of East Springfield.

The total financial losses from the riots totaled around \$150,000—or close to \$4 million in today's dollars, and ultimately, the Illinois National Guard was called in to restore order. Beyond depriving generations of Black folks of wealth, this act of violence left an indelible stain on the community. The injustice continues to this day, as East Springfield was never able to fully recover from the riot.

This riot, which occurred blocks away from President Lincoln's home, also served as the catalyst for the creation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), which aimed to be a voice for Blacks fighting to champion equal rights and eliminate racial prejudice, all while living a just and sustainable life in the United States.

There is currently bipartisan and bicameral support in Congress for making the archeological site in Springfield

a national monument: Republican Rodney Davis, who represents Springfield in the House, and Democratic Senators Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin, introduced the 1908 Springfield Race Riot National Monument Act, which would establish the site as a national monument to be managed by the US National Park Service. Additionally, thanks to the support and leadership of the Springfield Branch of the NAACP and local community, the City of Springfield has pledged to donate city property to establish the national monument.

**To ensure this dark stain in our nation's history is never forgotten, President Biden can use the Antiquities Act to declare this site a national monument.**

Doing so would remind folks of all backgrounds the violence of racism and the fight for equal rights in this country. Among our nation's national parks, less than a quarter are dedicated to acknowledging histories of diverse peoples, movements, and cultures. Designating this site would help make sure our public lands represent the diversity of this country.

**Urge President Biden to take action and designate Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument**  
[bit.ly/3vKJUiy](https://bit.ly/3vKJUiy)

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 201 Webster Street, Suite 1900  
 Oakland, CA 94612  
 (415) 977-5500

Sierra Club Legislative  
 50 F Street, NW, Eighth Floor  
 Washington, DC 20001  
 (202) 547-1141

[sierracub.org](https://sierracub.org)  
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[twitter.com/Sierracub](https://twitter.com/Sierracub)



## Springfield 1908 Race Riot Map

**SPRINGFIELD 1908 RACE RIOT NATIONAL MONUMENT**  
**December 2022**

## Springfield 1908 Race Riot Memorial Video

Visit <https://youtu.be/vX5MrUJmGM> to watch the video.



## Local Governments &amp; Elected Officials

Letter from Sens. Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 14, 2021

President-elect Joseph R. Biden  
Office of the President Elect  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 202230

Dear President-elect Biden:


We write to request that upon entering office, and pursuant to the American Antiquities Act of 1906, you declare by public proclamation the 1908 Springfield Race Riot Site in Springfield, Illinois, to be a National Monument. 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 last year when it designated the 1908 Springfield Race Riot Site as the 30th addition to the African American Civil Rights Network, which Congress established to recognize the importance of the African American civil rights movement and the sacrifices of Americans who fought against discrimination and segregation. 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.

Establishing 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 in advance for your leadership and consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

  
Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator

  
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator

Letter from Reps. Rodney Davis, Mike Bost, Darin LaHood

**Congress of the United States**

Washington, DC 20510

October 4, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to request your consideration of including the site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot in Illinois as a national monument within the National Park System pursuant to the authority granted to you by the Antiquities Act of 1906 (P.L. 59-209).

As you know, the site of the Springfield Race Riots and its artifacts were unearthed during construction of the Carpenter Street segment of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project and consists of the remains of five homes that were burned during the 1908 Springfield Race Riot, one of the worst race riots in our nation's history.

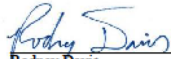
The 1908 Springfield Race Riot was sparked by a white mob who, after being thwarted in an attempt to lynch two black inmates at the local jail, went on a rampage that ended in the death of at least six, and the destruction of many black homes and businesses. During and immediately following the events, approximately 2,000 black residents fled the area and most never returned.


In response to these riots, civil rights leaders formed the National Negro Committee in New York City in February of 1909; the Committee eventually became the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the oldest civil rights organization in the world. The events in Springfield demonstrated that racial injustice was not an isolated issue only in the South, but one that was imperative to be addressed across the nation.

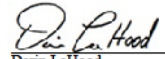
Most recently on August 20, 2020, the Springfield Race Riot site became the 30th addition to the African American Civil Rights Network. This is the first time that the site was formally recognized for its national and historic significance in the struggle for civil rights. Giving this site a full and proper designation as a unit of the National Park System is the next best step toward preserving this site for future generations.

Now is the time to finally give this site the proper historical recognition it deserves, and we hope that you will move to take swift action and designate this monument using your authority via the Antiquities Act. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Bost  
Member of Congress

  
Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress

City of Springfield

**AN ORDINANCE NOTIFYING THE U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE THAT PROPERTY LOCATED AT 300 N. 9<sup>TH</sup> STREET ALONG THE TENTH STREET RAIL CORRIDOR WILL BE DONATED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A MEMORIAL REGARDING THE 1908 RACE RIOTS UPON ELIGIBILITY TO BE IN THE U.S. NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM**

**WHEREAS**, the City will donate property located at 300 N. Ninth Street where the 1908 Race Riots occurred in the City of Springfield; and

**WHEREAS**, the City desires to donate the property to the U.S. National Park Service upon determination of eligibility to be in the National Park System.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS:**

**Section 1:** That the Mayor and the City Council support donation of property at the site of the 1908 Race Riots in the City located at 300 N. Ninth Street along the Tenth Street Rail Corridor to the U.S. National Park Service upon determination of eligibility to be in the National Park System.

**Section 2:** That the Memorial shall become a separate Unit of the U.S. National Park Service which shall be administered by the Lincoln Home National Historic Site.

**Section 3:** That the City Clerk shall provide copies of this ordinance to the Governor of the State of Illinois, Senator Durbin, Senator Duckworth, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior and any other entities deemed appropriate to receive this ordinance.

**Section 4:** That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and recording by the City Clerk.

PASSED: March 1, 2022

SIGNED: March 3, 2022

RECORDED: March 3, 2022

James O. Langfelder  
Mayor James O. Langfelder

ATTEST: Frank J. Lesko  
City Clerk Frank J. Lesko

Approved as to legal sufficiency:

Requested by: Mayor James O. Langfelder

James O. Langfelder  
Office of Corporation Counsel / Date

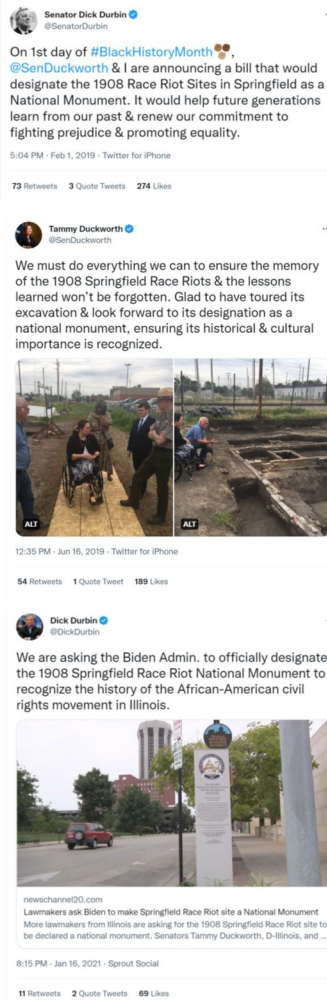
2022-064

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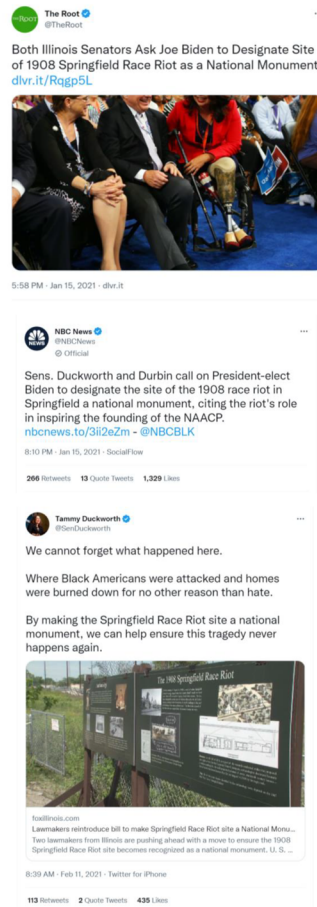
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Tracking No. Add 2/15/22 cc

## Social Media



## Social Media, Cont.






## Social Media, Cont.

**Dick Durbin** @DickDurbin

This Black History Month, I'm proud to reintroduce legislation that would designate the site of Springfield's 1908 Race Riot as a national monument. This piece of history cannot be forgotten.



10 x 10 cm  
1908 Springfield Race Riot National Monument Act reintroduced by Democrats... Democratic senators re-introduce legislation calling for the sites of Springfield's 1908 Race Riot to be designated as a national monument.

6:41 PM · Feb 10, 2021 · Sprout Social

11 Retweets 24 Likes

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**Senator Dick Durbin** @SenatorDurbin

The 1908 Springfield Race Riots were a violent and hateful tragedy that are a part of Illinois' tumultuous history and shouldn't be forgotten. Proud to join @SenDuckworth in re-introducing legislation to designate the riot site as a national monument.

WAND TV News @wandtvnews · Feb 9, 2021  
Official  
SPRINGFIELD, IL (WAND) — U.S. Senators Tommy Duckworth (D-IL) and Dick Durbin (D-IL) re-introduced legislation to designate the sites of the 1908 Race Riot in Springfield as a national monument. wandtv.com/news/senate-...  
8:07 AM · Feb 10, 2021 · Twitter Web App

91 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 310 Likes

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**US Rep Rodney Davis** @RodneyDavis

Instead of tearing down statues and monuments that honor Illinois heroes like Lincoln and Founders like Washington, let's preserve those and add more like making the 1908 Springfield Race Riot Site a National Monument.


7:53 AM · Feb 10, 2021 · Twitter Web App

2 Retweets 13 Likes

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**Dick Durbin** @DickDurbin

I'm working to designate the site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot as a National Monument.



10 x 10 cm  
How the 1908 race riot and Black history reform have risen to the spotlight for IL... A look back at our local history in Springfield, what we teach and how we can move forward together.

5:07 PM · Feb 26, 2021 · Sprout Social

7 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 34 Likes

## Social Media, Cont.



## Support Letters

NAACP



# NAACP

September 9, 2022

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

**VIA EMAIL**

Dear Mr. Boswell:

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People ("NAACP") thanks the National Park Service ("NPS") in studying the site of the 1908 Race Riot in Springfield, Illinois. The NAACP strongly supports the designation of this site as a new national monument given its historic importance in our founding and as an interpretive connection in American history.

As an organization committed to Black people and our legacy, we have few opportunities to create narratives that center the Black experience through land and historical sites. We respectfully request the Biden Administration to utilize this opportunity to acknowledge our nation's terrible legacy of racial violence at Springfield and beyond to expand knowledge of the role of Black leadership in fighting discrimination across the country. The Springfield designation presents such an opportunity in which NPS will play a pivotal role.

The NAACP is grateful for the leadership of the National Park Service in telling the stories of the life and leadership of Medgar Evers, the NAACP's first field secretary in Mississippi through the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument. The NAACP also appreciates the work of NPS to study Thurgood Marshall's boyhood school and related sites in Baltimore. We believe that this work in Springfield will expand this commitment of the NPS to share critical stories of progress toward civil and human rights.

As you may be aware, the NAACP formed in part as a response to anti-Black hatred that brewed in Springfield, Illinois. While riots and white violence occurred across the country, Springfield marked the home of Abraham Lincoln. Rioters knew that harming Black people miles away from the home of a president who "freed" enslaved individuals would send a message that Black people were not safe anywhere that they went. These riots were meant to mark this area as a derogatory reminder that Black liberation was not attainable. However, following the riots, in 1909 individuals met and signed documents that cemented conversations from the Niagara Movement, ensuring the birth of our national organization.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People  
4805 Mt Hope Drive • Baltimore MD 21215-3297 • 410.580.5777 • 877.622.2798 • [naacp.org](http://naacp.org)

The NAACP continues to fight on behalf of Black communities and other people of color who face discrimination, racism, and barriers based in racism and inequity. During the Springfield riots, many of the issues surrounding segregation of neighborhoods and the absence of green space and investment in the Black communities made the Springfield riots more harmful to Black people. Black people felt they were being punished, in some instances, for living in areas where Black people did not traditionally live. Without preserving history like Springfield, we will lose this historical context in ongoing advocacy for clean, safe, and sustainable communities. Preserving history is incredibly important to progress, which is why in 1910, the NAACP founded "The Crisis" magazine to document Black issues, advocacy, and news.

Building an archeological site that builds on green spaces that Black communities can access will honor the legacy of the importance of the NAACP. Across the country, Black people do not have access to green spaces that feel welcoming. This in itself is an environmental justice issue. Preserving a site that truly honors this history is an important and historical step.

**What is your vision for preserving the 1908 Springfield Race Riot archeological site and how would you like to see the site managed?**

The NAACP supports adding archeological sites to the National Park System to preserve their historic resources and provide a memorial to honor the Black people killed during the riots due to racism and white supremacist views. This legacy is important to ensure that individuals understand historic context when visiting the site. We encourage the NPS to provide visitor experience, public access and educational opportunities in partnership with the NAACP and local stakeholders.

The sites can tell the story of racial hatred directed against Springfield's Black community and the "architecture of erasure." In 1908, the attackers sought to erase Black people and their homes from the land. Today, because the land is vacant, NPS can interpret the architecture of erasure in the cultural landscape. By telling the story of Ida B. Wells-Barnett and the NAACP, NPS can highlight Black leadership in the struggle against lynching and mass violence.

Additionally, our vision includes actual green space that feels safe for Black communities. This is an opportunity to demonstrate a commitment to environmental justice, as the Biden Administration has stated as a priority.

**What types of activities and experiences would you want to see as part of the site into the future?**

The NAACP supports:

- On-site interpretation, visitor experience and access.
- A community and Black-led memorial to riot victims, their descendants and the community.
- Partnerships with stakeholders to interpret other sites (such as lynching sites, local historic resources, public buildings and museum collections).
- We support green space at the site.

**Do you have any ideas or concerns that the National Park Service should be aware of and/or address in the study process?**

The NAACP encourages the NPS to tell the story, in conjunction with our office, of the founding of the NAACP in 1909, Ida B. Wells-Barnett's advocacy for racial justice and the NAACP leadership to fight

the scourge of lynching and race riots including their advocacy following the 1919 Red Summer and other riots, and the Tulsa Race Massacre.

The NPS should be aware of creating space for individuals to process that feels like it has been a safe location for Black people. This may also mean creating new spaces that feel authentic to Black people. NPS should consider examining other places that have built safe places of acknowledgment such as The Legacy Museum, which has garnered positive feedback from visitors in its cultural relevance.

**What objects, buildings, remaining features, values and stories do you believe are most important at this site (or related to the riot but not at this site) and why?**

The NAACP encourages the NPS to help the public better understand that racism continues to exist as living history connected to Springfield. Black people were active in 1908 and continue leading today in the movement toward progress. Then as now, Black people actively rebuild their lives - after incidents like the 1908 race riot into today. We hope that the NPS will tell the story of the founding and early years of the NAACP, with a focus on its leadership to combat lynching and mass violence. We hope this storytelling process will allow for Black leadership and NAACP input to be part of each phase of the riots, ongoing struggles, and ways that the public can be involved.

**Do you support or oppose a potential national park unit designation?**

The NAACP supports the designation of the site as a National Monument.

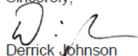
**Do you have any other ideas or comments you would like to share with us?**

The Springfield 1908 story is ready to be told to a national audience as part of the National Park System.

We respectfully request that the Biden Administration designate the archeological site as a National Monument. Through his leadership, President Biden can fill in a critical gap in the National Park System and protect the site as a resource for learning, healing and honoring the victims through a memorial. We ask President Biden to build on the legacy of Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Barack Obama and help our community and nation advance racial justice.

The NAACP thanks the National Park Service for its leadership and looks forward to working with the NPS on this project. For additional insight, please contact Abre' Conner, Director of Environmental and Climate Justice, at [AConner@NAACPnet.org](mailto:AConner@NAACPnet.org).

Sincerely,



Derrick Johnson  
President and CEO

## Illinois NAACP State Conference

**ILLINOIS NAACP STATE CONFERENCE**

P.O. Box 20384, Springfield, IL 627084  
217/789-2721

[www.illinoisnaacp.org](http://www.illinoisnaacp.org)



September 1, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Boswell:

As President of the Springfield Branch NAACP and the Illinois State Conference of Branches, and serving over 36 Branches statewide, we urge President Biden to protect the Springfield site as an acknowledgement of our nation's terrible legacy of racial violence and designate these archeological sites as 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.

We believe it is important to provide a memorial to honor the riot victims, and their descendants. All NAACP Branches throughout Illinois know the history, but our communities don't know how significant the 1908 Race Riot was in shaping America's Civil Rights. With this 1908 Race Riot Monument, we need to educate everyone for generations to come.

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 as a way to insure we never forget the bigotry and violent injustice that occurred.

Sincerely,  
*Teresa Haley*  
Teresa Haley

## Springfield Branch NAACP

**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](mailto:naacp1908@aol.com) [www.springfieldnaacp.org](http://www.springfieldnaacp.org)



August 22, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Boswell:

I am honored to serve as the President of the Springfield Branch NAACP. I urge President Biden to protect the Springfield site as an acknowledgement of our nation's terrible legacy of racial violence and designate these archeological sites as a National Monument.


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 Tokey and staff of the National Park Service for its leadership and look forward to supporting its 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 as a way to insure we never forget the bigotry and violent injustice that occurred.

Sincerely,  
  
 Teresa Haley

Teresa Haley



Teresa Haley  
2532 Portsmouth Circle  
Springfield, IL 62702

August 22, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Boswell:

I strongly support the efforts of the Springfield NAACP's efforts to designate the Springfield, Illinois 1908 Race Riot site a National Monument. Thank you for the National Park Service's work to study the site of the 1908 Race riot in Springfield IL.

I urge President Biden to protect the Springfield site as an acknowledgement of our nation's terrible legacy of racial violence and designate these archeological sites as a National Monument.

As a Black female born and raised in Springfield, IL, I believe the time is now to do what's right and this 1908 Race Riot Monument will help tell the story.

I 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 as a way to insure we never forget the bigotry and violent injustice that occurred .

The National Park Service could take the lead in telling that story with the designation of this site as a National Monument .

Thank you Tokey and staff of the National Park Service for its leadership and look forward to supporting its efforts when the Monument is established.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teresa Haley".

Teresa Haley  
Concerned Resident of Springfield, IL



Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc

ALABAMA STATE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CONVENTION, INCORPORATED

DR. MELVIN OWENS, PRESIDENT



September 3, 2022

Mr. Tokcy 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

North Eastern Episcopal District, AME Zion Church



**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  
Tel: (860) 255-7224



**Mrs. D. Diane Proctor**  
Missionary Supervisor  
Email: [dianepractor@aol.com](mailto:dianepractor@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

## National Black Presbyterian Caucus


**NATIONAL BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS**  
**PRESBYTERIANCHURCH (U.S.A.)**

National Office: P.O. Box 99696

Troy, MI 48099

(843) 425-6869

[www.nationalnbpc.org](http://www.nationalnbpc.org) email: [info@nationalnbpc.org](mailto:info@nationalnbpc.org)

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 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,

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

CCH:cch

California State Baptist Convention, Inc



*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.

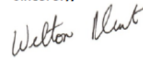
The National Advancement of Colored People was birthed from the ashes of the Springfield riots and has made it its mission to combat a significant social ill and moral failing of our time—racism. The NAACP has been a salve to our wounds of racism. That part of the story is also part of the 1908 Springfield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

1471 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue • Long Beach, California 90813  
Phone: (562) 599-3421 • Website: [www.calbaptist.com](http://www.calbaptist.com) • Email: [pastorp2@csbclb.org](mailto:pastorp2@csbclb.org) • [churchoffice@csbclb.org](mailto:churchoffice@csbclb.org)

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)

Connecticut State Missionary Baptist Convention



First Cavalry Baptist Church  
603 Dorwell Ave  
New Haven, CT 06511  
P (203) 624-1426 • F (203) 777-2939  
firstcavalrybaptist74@gmail.com

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Rev. Aaron Best, Vice President  
Rev. Hugh Brooks, Vice President  
Rev. Mack Elder, Vice President

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Youth and Young Adults  
Rev. Cloely Little, Advisor

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Sister Audrey Barr, Chairperson

Wichers and Nurses  
Sister Gloria Jennville, Director

Liturgical Dance - Director  
Sis. Jolyn Walker

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Rev. Dr. Jeffrey A. Ingram - Judith  
Rev. Cloely 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

CSMBC • P.O. BOX 101 • NORWALK, CT 06852

Emmanuel Temple Church of God in Christ



## Emmanuel Temple Church of God in Christ

"Where Everybody is somebody, & Christ is All"

September 2, 2022

Mr. Tokoy 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,

*Daryl G. Morrison Sr.*

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





## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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

Florida Council of Churches




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*That all become whole*

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

Florida Council of Churches  
3838 West Cypress Street  
Tampa, Florida 33607  
FB & Twitter @floridachurches

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

General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.



**General Baptist State Convention  
of North Carolina, Inc.**

THE BAPTIST HEADQUARTERS  
603 South Wilmington Street ♦ Raleigh, NC 27601-2338  
(919) 821-7466 ♦ FAX: (919) 836-0061 ♦ Website: [www.GBSCOnline.org](http://www.GBSCOnline.org)

September 1, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Boswell:

The special study of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot is a long overdue overture to aid in the telling the traumatic story of lynching and mass violence against Black Americans in the United States. The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina not only supports this special study but urges the Biden Administration to preserve this story through protection of the land that holds the story of the race riots.

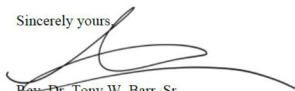
The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina State Baptist Convention, formed in 1867, is the oldest Black Baptist association in North Carolina with 500,000 congregants. The objectives we support include education, missions and benevolence. Our support of education has included the formation of Shaw University and Shaw Divinity School. Our support of education extends beyond school walls to include educating all communities about Black history.

We recognize that the telling of the story of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots is imperative for the whole country to recognize the harm and hate done to the Black community throughout US history. It is imperative that the 1908 Springfield Race Riot site be preserved. The violence of the riots and the impact it had on the Black community in Springfield should not be overlooked. And the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), which happened as a result of these riots, should be highlighted as an important point in Black history.

The proposed site of a national monument of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots sits within blocks of the former home of Abraham Lincoln and offers the opportunity to tell the fuller story of American history. Our country's history tragically includes thousands of lynchings and mass racial violence. Yet, the National Park Service does not have any parks that tell this story or that lifts up the leadership of the NAACP in working to address racial violence.

The time is now to preserve this site and create impactful educational experiences that tell the fuller and honest account of American and Black history.

Sincerely yours

  
Rev. Dr. Tony W. Barr, Sr.  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

  
Rev. Dr. Leonzo D. Lynch  
President, GBSC

Green Chalice

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

GreenFaith



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.

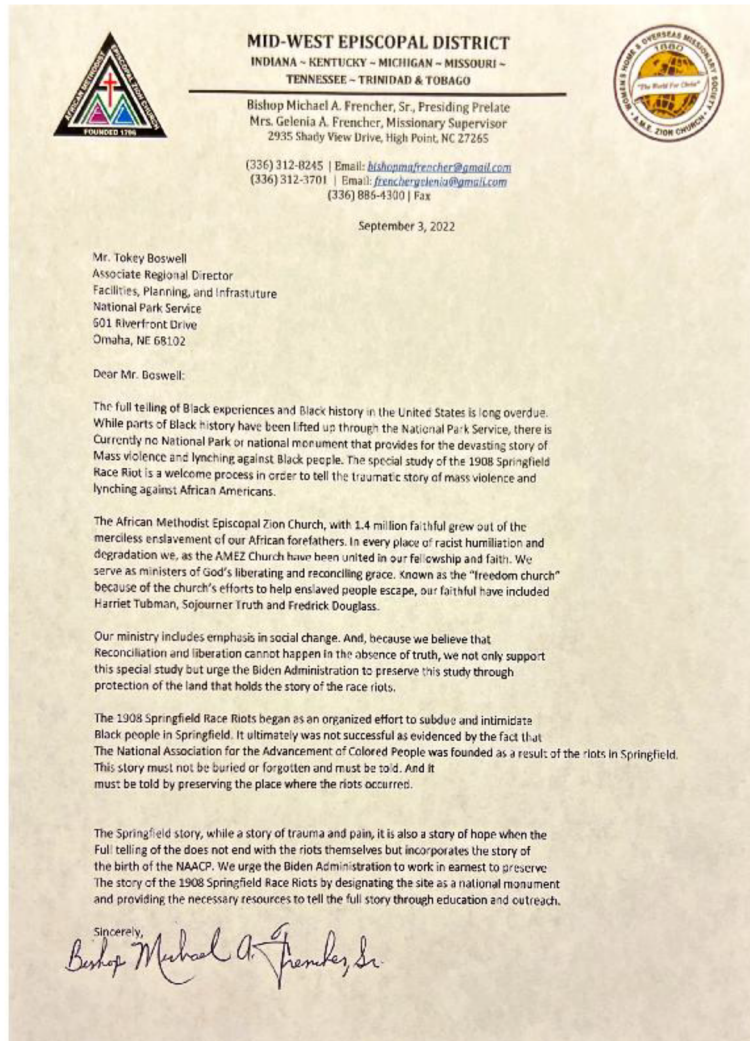
Racism remains a scourge in the United States. In the environmental realm, countless studies have shown that communities of color are disproportionately affected by toxic chemical hazards, air pollution, climate change impacts, food deserts, and other environmental threats. This is wrong.



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

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

## Mid-West AME Zion



## The Nation's Mosque



مسجد محمد بن المدينه  
**MASJID MUHAMMAD, INC**  
**The Nation's Mosque**  
 1519 Islamic Way, 4th 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

1 C-d, 1 Nation, 1 Humanity, The Nation's Mosque, in U.C. Since mid-1930s, 1st Mosque built in USA by African American Citizens

North Carolina Council of Churches



**North Carolina  
Council of Churches**

27 Home Street • Raleigh, North Carolina 27607  
Telephone (919) 828-6501  
E-mail: [info@nccchurches.org](mailto:info@nccchurches.org)  
[www.nccchurches.org](http://www.nccchurches.org)

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,

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



## National Religious Partnership for the Environment

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.

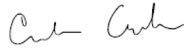
Our country's history tragically includes an untold number of lynching and mass racial violence. Yet, the National Park Service does not have any parks that document these tragedies. Management of the site of the Springfield Race Riots should focus not just the full story of the race riots in Springfield, 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,



Cassandra Carmichael  
Executive Director

Pennsylvania Baptist State Convention, Inc.



***Pennsylvania Baptist State Convention, Inc.***

*Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 410 Wykes Street, Aliquippa, PA 15001*  
*Email: [pbscvp1@gmail.com](mailto:pbscvp1@gmail.com)*  
*Website: [pbsc.org](http://pbsc.org)*

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

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,

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

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) 207-2105 or (813) 988-1026 • Fax: (813) 207-1113 • 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:

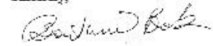
Thank you for your work regarding the special study of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot site. With organized opposition to telling Black history, this site could be an important counter to that effort. The need to have our history—America's full history—told in the land is critical.

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.

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Bringing It All Together

Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.



***It's Time!***  
**"To embrace the call  
 on our lives, having a  
 keen interest in the  
 Kingdom" Esther 4:14**

**REV. DAVID R. PEOPLES**  
**PRESIDENT**

**DR. KEITH W. BYRD, SR.**  
**1ST VICE PRESIDENT**

**DR. JACQUELINE A. THOMPSON**  
**2ND VICE PRESIDENT**

**DR. A. WAYNE JOHNSON**  
**GENERAL SECRETARY**



## PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.

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 President of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, I write in appreciation for the special study being conducted by the National Park Service of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot sites. As a national religious denomination dedicated to justice, Progressive National Baptist Convention supports the protection of the Springfield Race Riot sites as a national monument.

The Progressive National Baptist Convention was founded during the Civil Rights movement and started as a movement to transform and address the religious, social and political climate of the time. From the start, PNBC has been working to address racism and supported Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s struggle for freedom for African Americans. That work continues today as we continue to increase participation in the struggle to advance the cause of full and total human rights, especially for African Americans.

The riots were inflicted on African Americans in Springfield as a way to intimidate and terrorize. The results were tragic. Black businesses were destroyed, Black neighborhoods were burned to the ground and African Americans fled Springfield, fearing for their very lives. Preservation of the sites of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots would help in the advancement of human rights for African Americans by recognizing and lifting up the events of the riots for the nation to see, experience and learn from.

Preservation of the riot's sites should include actual archeological remains of the destroyed buildings, a visitor's center so that those visiting the site can immerse themselves in the story and a memorial to the victims of the riots and their descendants.

The history of the Springfield Race Riots is painful but necessary to tell. It is part of American history and designation of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot sites as a national monument would demonstrate that our country priorities justice and healing.

The Progressive National Baptist Convention looks forward to having the 1908 Springfield Race Riot sites being included in the National Park Service as a national monument.

Sincerely,

President David R. Peoples

**PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.**  
 601-80TH STREET, NE  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20019  
 (202) 368.0886 or (800) 878.7822 TOLL FREE  
 WWW.PNBC.ORG

Sisters of Mercy



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

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8403 Colesville Road, Suite 400, Silver Spring, MD 20910 | 301.587.0423 | 301.587.0533 | [sistersofmercy.org](http://sistersofmercy.org)

## Sign-on letter from 4,344 Black Clergy leaders

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 Black church leaders we are gratified to learn of the special resource study of the site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot. The proposed site, which includes the remains of several Black residences, tells the tragic story of the lynching of Black people and the destruction of their homes. It also tells the story of the resilience of the Black community and the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909. This is a critical story to tell through our National Park System especially as a counter to the organized efforts underway to erase Black history and our crucial contributions to this country.

We fully support the preservation of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot site. Designating the site in Springfield as a national monument would make it the only unit of the National Park System dedicated to tell a story of lynching and mass violence against African Americans. It would also be the only unit dedicated to tell the story of the leadership of the NAACP in helping African Americans in face of unimaginable racism.

The Black community is not, as some would describe, the least, the lost or the left behind. We are a community borne of resilience, leadership and courage. The story contained in the 1908 Springfield Race Riots and the resulting founding of the NAACP embody this reality. The 1908 Springfield Race Riots should be designated as a national monument on the site of the homes that were burned to the ground. We also advocate that the educational interpretation of the site and events include both the riots themselves and the resulting founding of the NAACP.

We cannot heal our nation's racial trauma unless we acknowledge the actual historical events that took place. Telling the story of the Springfield Race Riot through our National Park Service will help us, as a nation, in that healing process.

Sincerely,

*Signed by 4,344 Black clergy*

Texas State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc.



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## Texas State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc.

Dr. Bruce D. Datcher, President

1901 Amanda Avenue

Fort Worth, Texas 76102

817-335-3094 Voice • 817-315-3657 Facsimile

E-mail: bddatcher@twbnet.net

September 3, 2002

Mr. Tokey Boswell  
 Associate Regional Director  
 Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
 National Park Service  
 6411 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 forge.

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 onerous racism. Neglecting this important piece of America's history would be irresponsible. It offers us lessons today and warnings for tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Texas State Missionary Baptist Convention, President



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

Rev. Dr. Gregory Maddox  
President

Rev. Dr. Rodney Morton  
First Vice President

Rev. Dr. Frank Hines  
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### *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.ubmcomd.org](http://www.ubmcomd.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.

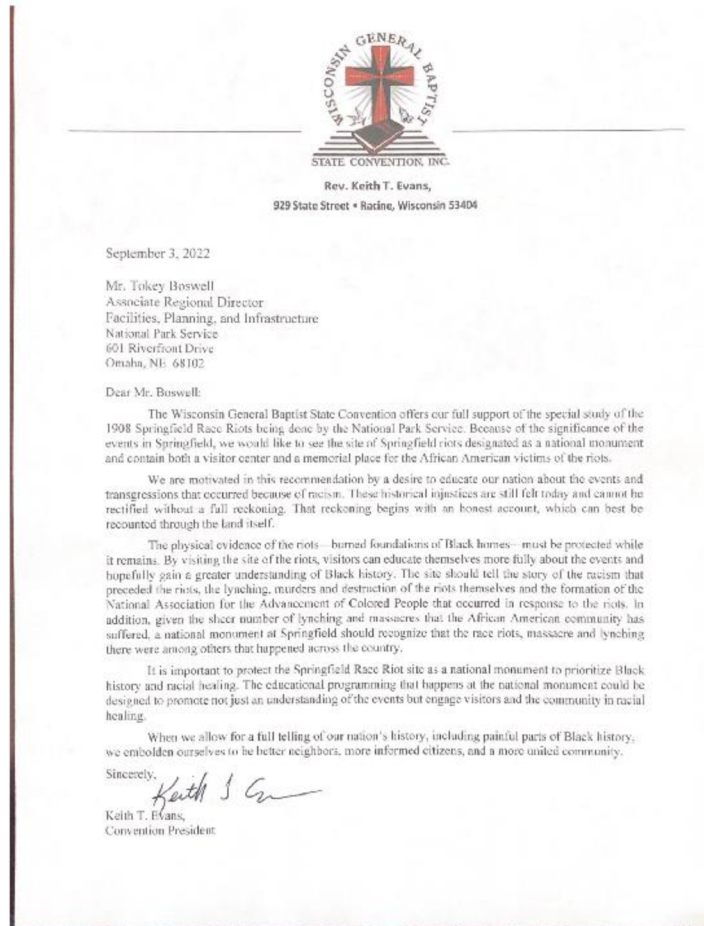
Sincerely,

*Greggory R. Maddox D. Min*

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

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

## Wisconsin General Baptist State Convention



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State Journal Register: Sen. Tammy Duckworth Op-ed, 12.13.2022

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## Op-Ed: President Biden, make site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots a national monument

**Tammy Duckworth**

Published 5:05 a.m. CT Dec. 13, 2022

Springfield, Illinois, is steeped in American history. Some of its lore is well-known: It was the home of our 16th President and to this day embodies the heart of the "Land of Lincoln." It is the ancestral land of the Kickapoo Tribe and, of course, serves as the state capital of Illinois. But it also served as the backdrop of some of our nation's lowest moments — nightmarish days that are as painful as they are essential to remember and reflect upon: including the 1908 Race Riots. In August 1908, a mob of white Americans and European immigrants murdered at least six Black residents then burned and looted Black businesses and communities in an effort to spread terror throughout the city and show that while Springfield was the home of the Great Emancipator, it was not immune to the racial violence that, tragically, is deeply woven into the fabric of this nation's history. More than a century later, our country still wrestles with the legacy of these, and other, horrific events. But as an Illinoisan, I know that part of what defines Midwestern culture is the ability to speak plainly: to

acknowledge and learn from our mistakes. Designating a national monument to honor the 1908 Race Riots, one of the darkest periods of our nation's fight for racial equality, is a decidedly Midwestern thing to do — and I'm calling on President Biden to help us do just that.

Last year, along with my fellow Illinois Senator Dick Durbin, I introduced legislation that would designate the site of the 1908 Race Riots as a national monument. And while despite our efforts, Congressional gridlock has thus far prevented the bill from passing, there is still another path forward. The President can bypass that stalemate and give the bill an alternative way ahead through the Antiquities Act: a law that empowers the President to designate federal lands as national monuments in the hope of preserving and protecting spaces of historical or cultural significance.

The site of the 1908 Race Riots is both. The Springfield Riots helped spur the creation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), while in 2020, the Department of the Interior designated it the 30th addition to the African American Civil Rights Network, honoring the sacrifices made and suffering endured throughout the civil rights movement. Those are just two of the reasons why there has been an incredibly wide array of support for this designation. Everyone from statewide politicians to local stakeholders, groups from the Sierra Club to St. John's Hospital to faith-based organizations and the Springfield Branch of the NAACP have joined me in this effort. Because they know what I know: that acknowledging and understanding America's history — all of America's history — is critical to a healthy nation.



For far too long, our country has been all too happy to obscure or ignore the low moments in the histories of BIPOC Americans, opting to illuminate only the palatable, honorable, unobjectionable instances in our nation's timeline. But the lighter parts of history don't tell the entire story, and we owe it to both our older generations and the ones yet to come to shine a light on our darkest days — acknowledging past violence and oppression in the hope of never seeing a future that dark again.

So today, I'm asking us to remember the worst of yesteryear in the interest of progressing to a truly just and equitable tomorrow. Now is the time for President Biden to use the power entrusted to him through the Antiquities Act to designate this historical site a national monument, thereby safeguarding the space and its story for generations — honoring the lives lost in that dark hour and recommitting to promoting racial justice and equity for all, for all the hours to come.

*Tammy Duckwoth represents Illinois in the United States Senate.*

Illinois Times, 8.18.2022

Can race riot site become part of National Park Service? | News | Illinois Times

11/19/22, 9:26 PM



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News &amp; Opinion » News

August 18, 2022

## Can race riot site become part of National Park Service?

Study to result in recommendation to Congress

By Karen Ackerman-Witter

The National Park Service (NPS) is conducting a "special resource study" to determine if the 1908 Springfield Race Riot site meets the criteria to be included in the national park system. Public comments are being accepted online now through Sept. 3 (see link below).



PHOTO COURTESY FEVER RIVER RESEARCH  
Current archaeological work by Fever River Research on the east side of 10th Street has uncovered two houses built in the 1860s for Black families. The houses were burned during the 1908 race riots.

The NPS hosted a meeting Aug. 10 to explain the process and invite public comment. Approximately 100 people filled the meeting room at the NAACP office on South 11th Street. Those present included elected officials and the great-grandson of Ida B. Wells. There were representatives of the NAACP, Hospital Sisters Health System, Springfield Urban League, ACLU, Black Lives Matter Springfield, Springfield African American History Museum, Route History, Jewish Federation of Springfield and the Sierra Club. These groups, and individual citizens, expressed their united support for national recognition of the site and inclusion in the national park system.

Share a memory of a pet you have loved and lost.



CALENDAR

<https://www.illinoistimes.com/springfield/can-race-riot-site-become-part-of-national-park-service/ContentId=15596905>

Page 1 of 7

## Duckworth Statement on Re-introduction of Springfield Race Riot National Monument Act

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FEBRUARY 08, 2021

### DUCKWORTH, DURBIN RE-INTRODUCE BILL TO ESTABLISH 1908 SPRINGFIELD RACE RIOT SITE AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT

[WASHINGTON, D.C.] – U.S. Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Dick Durbin (D-IL) today re-introduced legislation to designate the sites of the 1908 Race Riot in Springfield, Illinois, as a national monument. The riot was the catalyst for the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), which was founded 112 years ago this week. The *1908 Springfield Race Riot National Monument Act* would establish the site as a national monument to be managed by the U.S. National Park Service. With less than a quarter of our country's national parks devoted to recognizing the histories of diverse peoples and cultures, designating this site will help guarantee that public lands reflect the diversity of the country.

"The 1908 Springfield Race Riot site is of extraordinary cultural and historical importance to our state and to this country," Duckworth said. "By designating this area a national monument, we will help ensure that the painful lessons learned here will not be lost for the generations of Americans to come. Making our national parks better reflect our nation's people and history is long overdue, and it's time we properly recognize this site."

"The 1908 Springfield Race Riots were a violent and hateful tragedy that are a part of Illinois' tumultuous history and shouldn't be forgotten," Durbin said. "It is because of this event that the NAACP was formed, which has served as an unwavering voice for Black Americans. I am happy to reintroduce the Springfield Race Riot National Monument Act along with Sen. Duckworth in order to honor the lives lost during the deadly riots and reaffirm our commitment to fighting prejudice and promoting equality in Illinois and throughout the United States."

During the 1908 Race Riots, a mob of white residents murdered at least six Black Americans, burned Black homes and businesses and attacked hundreds of residents for no other reason than the color of their skin. In the aftermath of the riot, the NAACP was formed. During an excavation as part of the Springfield High Speed Rail project, foundations and artifacts from homes destroyed during the riot were uncovered. An agreement with community members was reached in 2018 to excavate the remains and designate the uncovered site a memorial.

Duckworth and Durbin have been longtime supporters of turning this site into a national monument, originally introducing this legislation in 2019. Earlier this year, the Senators called on then-President-elect Biden to establish the site as a national monument. Duckworth toured the site in 2019. This legislation is supported by NAACP and the Sierra Club.

-30-



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PHOTO: TUCKER

Illinois Times, August 18 2022

## Can race riot site become part of National Park Service?

*Study to result in recommendation to Congress*

By Karen Ackerman Witter



PHOTO COURTESY FEVER RIVER RESEARCH

Current archaeological work by Fever River Research on the east side of 10th Street has uncovered two houses built in the 1860s for Black families. The houses were burned during the 1908 race riots

The National Park Service (NPS) is conducting a "special resource study" to determine if the 1908 Springfield Race Riot site meets the criteria to be included in the national park system. Public comments are being accepted online now through Sept. 3 (see link below).

The NPS hosted a meeting Aug. 10 to explain the process and invite public comment. Approximately 100 people filled the meeting room at the NAACP office on South 11th Street. Those present included elected officials and the great-grandson of Ida B. Wells. There were representatives of the NAACP, Hospital Sisters Health System, Springfield Urban League, ACLU, Black Lives Matter Springfield, Springfield African American History Museum, Route History, Jewish Federation of Springfield and the Sierra Club. These groups, and individual citizens, expressed their united support for national recognition of the site and inclusion in the national park system.

The Springfield Rail Improvements Project led to the discovery of the remains of five homes that were burned during the 1908 Springfield Race Riot. An archaeological excavation of the site has been underway near Madison and 10th Streets since 2014 by Fever River Research. The Illinois State Museum is the repository for the artifacts. The special resource study, which is being conducted at the direction of Congress, will evaluate the archaeological site as well as other locations and buildings around Springfield that played an important role in the riot and its aftermath. The 1908 Race Riot led to the formation of the NAACP.

There are 423 units in the national park system, and only 63 are national parks. There are numerous other designations. For a site to be recommended for inclusion in the national park system, it must contain nationally significant natural and/or cultural resources and represent a resource that is not already adequately represented in the national park system, or comparably represented and protected by another entity. It must be feasible for the NPS

to manage over the long term. And, the NPS must be the best entity to manage the site, compared to other agencies or organizations. The study will determine if the race riot site meets these criteria.

Julie Bell, cultural resource manager for the NPS based in Denver, explained some of the questions to be answered. Is the story to be told important to U.S. history? Is the story being told somewhere else? Can people get access to the site? How easy or hard will it be to staff? What is the cost to the NPS for acquisition and staffing? Are there any threats to resources to be managed? Are there partnership opportunities?

The study got underway in March 2022. A final report will be submitted by the National Park Service to the Secretary of the Interior in Spring 2023. The NPS doesn't take an official position during the study; however, the final report will include a specific recommendation related to inclusion in the national park system. Tokey Boswell, NPS associate regional director, said that 60-70% of the special resource studies result in "positive findings." Of those, about 75% become a national park system site. The NPS cannot independently add a site. That takes an Act of Congress, signed by the president. Or, the president has the authority under the Antiquities Act to declare a site a National Monument within the national park system, which does not require approval by Congress.

The public comment portal on the NPS website invites people to answer questions about their vision for preserving the race riot site and how it should be managed; what types of activities and experiences are desired; what features, values and stories are most important; and, whether they support designation as a unit of the national park system. There is also an opportunity to provide other ideas or comments. For updates about the study and to comment, go to <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/springfieldsrs>. For more information, contact Tokey Boswell at [tokey\\_boswell@nps.gov](mailto:tokey_boswell@nps.gov).

There is widespread bipartisan and community support for telling the poignant stories of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot. Hanson is leading the massive Springfield Rail Improvements Project. The company engaged one of its consultants, RDG Planning & Design, headquartered in Des Moines, to develop a conceptual design for a 1908 Race Riot memorial. They also created a stakeholder group with local members, including the NAACP, to provide input to the design. A bronze sculpture of a tree symbolizing a lynching tree is one of the powerful features of the proposed memorial. A video illustrating the proposed design is on the NAACP website <http://springfieldnaacp.org/>.

*Karen Ackerman Witter moved to Springfield when she was nine and didn't learn about the 1908 Race Riot until many years later as an adult. She is a former associate director of the Illinois State Museum, which is located on the site where William Donnegan was lynched during the race riot. A marker outside the museum tells this gruesome story.*



[Journal Courier, Jan 28 2021](#)

## President invited to visit region to see site of deadly 1908 race riots

[David C.L. Bauer, dbauer@myjournalcourier.com](#)

Jan. 28, 2021

[Comments](#)



Some ruins are left in 1908 in the wake of days of rioting in Springfield.  
Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library

A west-central Illinois congressman is inviting President Joe Biden and other federal officials to visit his district.

Republican U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis extended the invitation to Biden and Interior Secretary-designate Deb Haaland to see the 1908 Springfield Race Riot Site.

“The site and its artifacts were unearthed during construction of the Carpenter Street segment of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project and consists of the remains of five homes that were burned during the 1908 Springfield Race Riot, one of the worst race riots in our nation’s history,” Davis said.

There has been no statement from the White House about whether the president or Haaland will accept.

The site is being considered for inclusion in the National Park System. Davis' House Resolution 139, known as the Springfield Race Riot National Historic Monument Act, directs the Interior Department to conduct a study to determine the site's suitability for park system inclusion.

The race riot was sparked by an angry mob that was prevented from lynching two Black inmates accused of rape and murder. The ensuing violence resulted in six deaths and left dozens of Black homes and businesses burned and destroyed. Nearly 2,000 Black residents left the city after the riots, and the acts are said to be the catalyst behind the formation of what later would become the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"The race riot in Springfield demonstrated that racial injustice was not an isolated issue only in the South, but one to be addressed across the nation," Davis said. "I have worked tirelessly with the previous administration, as well as with my colleagues in the House and Senate, to designate this site as a national monument in recognition of its significance as a major event in the African American civil rights struggle."

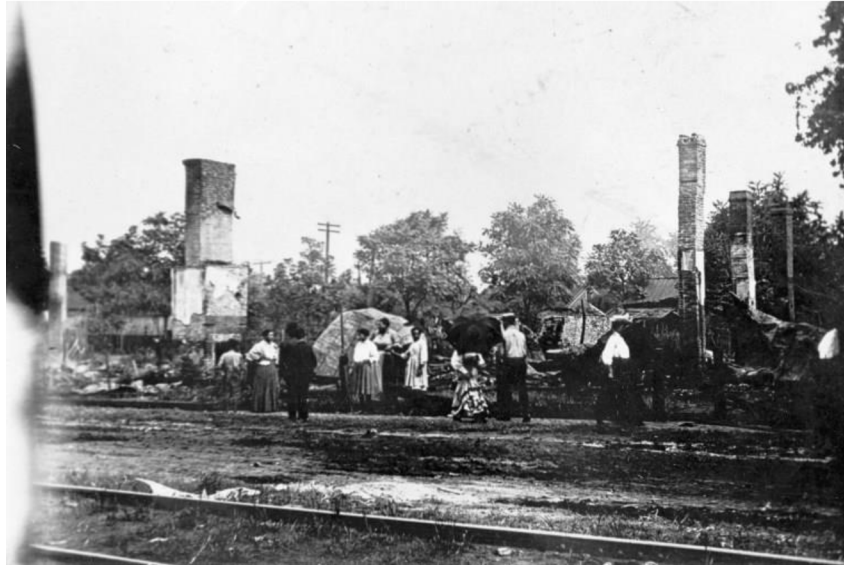
Davis' work resulted in the site being added last year to the African American Civil Rights Network, marking the first time it was formally recognized for its significance in the civil rights struggle.

"As our nation continues to experience deep racial tension, now more than ever, this site tells an important story that we must not forget," Davis said.

[NBC News, Jan. 15, 2021](#)

### Illinois Senators call for monument of a 1908 riot that launched the NAACP

Democrats Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin have asked Biden to designate the site of the 1908 Springfield race riot as a national monument.



African Americans near some of the homes burned during the race riot in Springfield, Ill., in August 1908. Sangamon Valley Collection / Lincoln Library

Jan. 15, 2021, 9:56 AM PST

By Randi Richardson

Illinois' two senators have called on President-elect Joe Biden to make the site of a 1908 race riot in Springfield a national monument.

Sens. Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin, both Democrats, wrote to Biden Thursday asking for the designation, citing the riot's historic significance, especially its role in inspiring the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.



Illinois National Guard soldiers on duty among burned out residences. Sangamon Valley Collection / Lincoln Library

In 1908, from Aug. 14 to 16, a mob of about 5,000 white people stormed Black neighborhoods to find and lynch two Black men, one charged with murdering a white man and the other with raping a white woman. When the mob learned the men had been secretly transferred to a jail in another city, it began canvassing Black neighborhoods to destroy businesses and homes. Authorities had to call on the state's National Guard to quell the riot. At least seven black residents were killed, [by most accounts](#), as well as several white people.

The riot in the state's capital shocked the nation. Six months later, in February 1909, the NAACP was founded, partly in response to the Springfield riot as well as other acts of racial violence across the country. It is now the nation's largest and most influential civil rights organization.



Burned out residences of the Badlands neighborhood after the race riot. Sangamon Valley Collection / Lincoln Library

Artifacts of the time and the foundations of destroyed homes remain on the site. Community members reached an agreement in 2018 to excavate any remains and designate the site a memorial.

Duckworth and Durbin said establishing it as a national monument, which the U.S. National Park Service would manage, “would represent long overdue progress” in cementing Black history as part of the country’s history.

The request comes just over a week after the deadly mob in the U.S. Capitol.

“I am excited about seeing the 1908 Race Riot Site As A National Monument become a reality,” Teresa Haley, NAACP Illinois state president, [said in a statement in 2019](#). “This is a part the Black history that needs to be preserved and shared with everyone.”

Southland Journal, Jan 14 2021

**Duckworth & Durbin Call on Biden Administration to Establish  
1908 Springfield Race Riot National Monument**

Silence DoGood

January 14, 2021

*Duckworth & Durbin Call on Biden Administration to Establish 1908 Springfield Race Riot National Monument* (Washington, DC) – In a press release received today, U.S. Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-Illinois) and Dick Durbin (D-Illinois) called on President-Elect Biden to establish a national monument in remembrance of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot.

The 1908 Springfield Race Riot began when a mob seeking to lynch 2 accused murderers became enraged when they found that the sheriff had moved them out of the city. The mob of about 5,000 whites attacked the predominately black neighborhoods and attacked black citizens, leading to the death of at least 16 people. The riot was only quelled with the help of the state militia. The 1908 Springfield Race Riot is said to be an important impetus of the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The press release by Senators Duckworth and Durbin is below:

“U.S. Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Dick Durbin (D-IL) are calling on the incoming Biden administration to declare the site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot in Springfield, Illinois, as a national monument to be managed by the U.S. National Park Service. The riot was the catalyst for the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Duckworth and Durbin have been longtime supporters of creating a national monument at the site, introducing the Springfield Race Riot National Monument Act in 2019 to help increase the number of National Parks devoted to recognizing the histories of diverse peoples and cultures.

“‘Establishing 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 Senators wrote. ‘The NAACP was instrumental in pushing our nation forward to form a perfect union by helping establish justice and working to secure the blessings of liberty for Black Americans.’

“During the 1908 Springfield Race Riots, a mob of white residents murdered at least six African Americans, burned black homes and businesses and attacked hundreds of residents for no other reason than the color of their skin. During an excavation as part of the Springfield High-Speed Rail project, foundations and artifacts from homes destroyed during the 1908 Springfield Race Riot were uncovered. An agreement with community members was reached in 2018 to excavate the remains and designate the uncovered site a memorial.”

[Holland Sentinel, Oct 4 2022](#)

## Richard Killmer: The 1908 Springfield race riots and the National Park Service

Rev. Richard Killmer Community Columnist  
Published 12:15 a.m. ET Oct. 4, 2022

The evening of Aug. 14, 1908, in Springfield, the capital of Illinois and a home of Abraham Lincoln, marks the start of a horrific racially motivated riot. A mob of about 5,000 whites, demanding the release of both George Richardson, accused of raping a white woman, and Joe James, accused of murder of a white man, looted and damaged Black-owned businesses and homes as well as some looting some Jewish-owned businesses. The Illinois Governor called the Illinois National Guard to bring the riots under control, but not before two members of the Black community were lynched.

The police sensed danger and consequently the county sheriff, with help from a white business owner, secretly removed the two prisoners through the back door and put them on a train that transported them to another jail in Bloomington, Illinois. Once the mob learned of this move, they erupted in violence marching toward the areas where African Americans lived. The terror inflicted upon the Black community in Springfield led thousands to flee the city, some never to return. Fortunately, enough troops arrived in the capital to prevent further damage, but hit-and-run attacks against black residents continued through August and into September.

Of the two accused black men, who were the main focus of the racial violence, Joe James was eventually tried, convicted and hanged for the murder of a white man. George Richardson was set free after his accuser confessed that she lied about being raped. Six months later the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was created, which has played a major role in the civil rights movement in the U.S.

The U.S. National Park Service has launched a special resource study of the site near Madison Street and the 10th Street Rail Corridor in Springfield, Illinois, where the 1908 Springfield Race Riot began. The study, instituted by U.S. Congress through the Springfield Race Riot Study Act of 2020, will determine if it should be designated a new national park unit.

A special resource study evaluates the eligibility of an area to be recommended for designation as a unit in the national park system. The NPS produces the study for the Secretary of the Interior who then prepares any recommendations for the U.S. Congress. Regardless of the outcome of the study, new units of the national park system can only be established by an Act of Congress or by presidential proclamation which could be done by President Biden. The study area contains the structural remains of five homes that were burned during the 1908 Springfield Race Riot within an urban section several blocks from the Lincoln Home National Historic Site and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, which is where the riot

began.

St. John's Hospital recently constructed a new health clinic adjacent to the study area that features an exhibit and healing garden, both of which are dedicated to the victims of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot and to those who provided care. While some may think that there should not be a monument that reminds us of a race riot that happened more 100 years ago, religious traditions would differ. Many religious communities believe that it is important to acknowledge the harmful acts we do to other people. During Yom Kippur, Jews apologize to those people they have hurt. Catholics confess to a priest the hurtful behavior they have done to others. Protestants often have corporate confession that provides the whole congregation an opportunity to acknowledge wrongdoing together. Ramadan provides an opportunity for Muslims to reflect on their lives and to vow to increase their faithfulness to God.

After the acknowledgement of their sinfulness, people of faith hear an affirmation of pardon and in some traditions encouragement to make things right with the people they have harmed. Confession and pardon are not just about recent events, but certainly can be about past sins including violence and racism and misogyny.

Remembering events like the 1908 Springfield Race Riots can bring healing. Ignoring such historical events neglects the pain of the victims and can lead to the danger of doing such acts again. The United States designates National Monuments in places like Springfield in order to remember the full history, so that, as a nation, we can heal.

— *Rev. Richard Killmer is a retired Presbyterian minister who lives in East Grand Rapids.*



**1908 SPRINGFIELD RACE RIOT  
SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY  
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY**

**NOVEMBER 2022**

## OVERVIEW OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998 requires that each special resource study “shall be prepared with appropriate opportunity for public involvement, including at least one public meeting in the vicinity of the study, and after reasonable efforts to notify potential affected landowners and State and local governments.” The National Park Service (NPS) made a diligent effort to engage interested and affected individuals, groups, and agencies during the preparation of this study through an in person public meeting and public comment period.

The National Park Service, in partnership with the Springfield NAACP, the City of Springfield, and Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS), planned and conducted outreach to the public to share information about the special resource study process and collect information that would inform the findings of the study. The National Park Service solicited public input on a variety of topics, including current management of the study area and ideas for future resource protection and visitor enjoyment. This civic engagement also helped the National Park Service assess the level of local support for adding the site to the national park system.

## NOTIFYING THE PUBLIC

The National Park Service initiated the special resource study of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot in Springfield, Illinois, in spring 2022. In the initial steps of the process, the study team gathered information regarding the site and met with key stakeholders. In August 2022, the study team initiated a civic engagement process to inform the special resource study. During the civic engagement process, the National Park Service solicited feedback from the public through a newsletter, the project website, and an in-person public meeting, which was advertised through the project website and a press release in local and regional media. A project website was created on the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/springfieldsrs>) to share project updates, provide information regarding the public meeting, and collect public comments.

The study team coordinated with the NAACP, the City of Springfield, and Hospital Sisters Health System to share notice of the public meeting and encourage the public to respond during the public comment period. In addition to the public meeting, the National Park Service conducted site visits of the study area, where individuals and organizations participated in and supported the process.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

The official public comment period opened on August 3, 2022, and closed on September 9, 2022. The study team hosted one in-person public meeting on August 10, 2022, at the NAACP office in Springfield, Illinois, which was well attended by representatives from several local community organizations. The meeting was recorded by the City of Springfield and made available to the public on the project website, the city’s public access television channel, and at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqQg9G3zcDo>. The National Park Service shared a

presentation at the public meeting to share information about the purpose and process of a special resource study, provide an overview of the criteria the National Park Service applies when conducting special resource studies, and seek public feedback.

Approximately 100 people attended the public meeting hosted at the Springfield NAACP offices. The meeting was well attended by the public, representatives of elected officials, representatives of local community organizations, NAACP members, the mayor of Springfield, Hospital Sisters Health System, and the great-grandson of Ida B. Wells-Barnett, all expressing strong support for the special resource study and designating a new national park unit. Organizations represented included the Springfield Urban League; the American Civil Liberties Union; Prince Hall Mason of Central Lodge #3; Black Lives Matter Springfield; the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum; Route 66 History; the Jewish Federation of Springfield; the Sierra Club; and fraternity alumni from Kappa Alpha Psi, Phi Beta Sigma, and Alpha Phi Alpha, among others.

During the meeting, private citizens and organizations shared personal stories and reflections, including when they learned about the site and the 1908 Springfield Race Riot and its impact on them. Meeting attendees urged one another to start a dialogue in support of healing and remembering the victims of the riot. The National Park Service received questions and comments from meeting attendees and addressed questions and comments in real time. Meeting attendees also urged the National Park Service to preserve the site because of its importance in encompassing diverse stories. Attendees were encouraged to submit their comments to the project's PEPC site. As a result of civic engagement, several news stories and articles were published, all demonstrating a level of support for the special resource study and its potential designation as a national park system unit.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

The National Park Service sought feedback on the special resource study by asking the public to answer the following six questions that were designed to gauge the level of public support. The questions were listed in the newsletter and displayed during the public meeting. The questions were as follows:

1. What is your vision for preserving the 1908 Springfield Race Riot archeological site and how would you like to see the site managed?
2. What types of activities and experiences would you want to see as part of the site into the future?
3. Do you have any ideas or concerns that the National Park Service should be aware of and/or address in the study process?
4. What objects, buildings, remaining features, values and stories do you believe are most important at this site (or related to the riot but not at this site) and why?
5. Do you support or oppose a potential national park unit designation?
6. Do you have any other ideas or comments you would like to share with us?

During the public comment period, the National Park Service received approximately 5,500 comments from individuals or organizations on the special resource study. Approximately 80 correspondences were received through the online platform and by email. The study team received 1,096 letters from the Sierra Club expressing support for a potential designation and approximately 4,300 signatures on a letter of support for designation received from individuals identifying as Black clergy and Black church leaders across the nation. Several of the religious organizations providing comment letters expressed strong support on behalf of their parishioners or members. The list below captures the organizations that submitted comments in support of the study and a potential designation of a new national park unit.

**Property Owners**

- City of Springfield, Office of the City Council
- Hospital Sisters Health System, the parent company of St. John's Hospital

**Stakeholders**

- National NAACP
- Illinois NAACP State Conference
- Hanson Professional Services Inc.
- Lincoln Presidential Foundation
- Springfield Urban League Inc.

**Church and Religious Organizations**

- Grace International Outreach Church
- Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.
- American Baptist General Convention of Texas
- Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc.
- The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, North Eastern Episcopal District
- Church of God in Christ, Inc.
- Black Presbyterian Caucus
- California State Baptist Convention, Inc.
- Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
- Emmanuel Temple Church of God in Christ
- Connecticut State Missionary Baptist Convention

- Green Chalice Christian Church
- Greenfaith
- Baptist General State Convention of Illinois, Inc.
- The United Baptist Missionary Convention and Auxiliaries of the State of Maryland Inc.
- The Midwest Episcopal District
- National Council of Churches
- The Nation's Mosque
- North Carolina Council of Churches
- General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina
- The National Religious Partnership for the Environment
- The Pennsylvania Baptist State Convention
- Progressive Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention of Florida, Inc.
- Florida Council of Churches
- Sisters of Mercy
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Temple Hesed
- Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life
- Texas State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc.
- Wisconsin General Baptist State Convention, Inc.
- Lutherans Restoring Creation

**Other Interested Organizations**

- Sierra Club
- Coalition to Protect America's National Parks
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Mother Jones Foundation
- United States Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites

- League of Conservation Voters
- Illinois Environmental Council
- Robert Moore and Associate Police Consultants and Online Book Sales
- GreenLatinos
- Eta Psi Sigma

#### PUBLIC OPINIONS, PERCEPTIONS, AND VALUES

The following is a brief overview of respondent comments, divided into five main topics based on the scoping questions above.

##### Support for NPS Designation

Support for the study and potentially designating the site as a national park unit was almost unanimous. Commenters mentioned that the local community has effectively encouraged protecting the site but recognized that the National Park Service would ensure its preservation into perpetuity and protect the important story of the site. Commenters described the potential efficiency of NPS management of the site when combined with the nearby Lincoln Home National Historic Site. Commenters also shared the contributions of the local community and organizations that currently protect the site and tell its story and mentioned several partnership opportunities.

Several commenters supported preserving the site as a monument to commemorate the 1908 Springfield Race Riot, the founding of the NAACP, and the events that occurred during the riot. Respondents mentioned that the site shows both the story of trauma and pain and a story of hope with the founding of the NAACP. Commenters shared how creating a dialogue and educating the public about the riot and its aftermath would acknowledge its role in American history and be a step toward healing for both the local community and the nation. Commenters shared the importance of the NAACP's founding, specifically, how Ida B. Wells-Barnett's advocacy for racial justice connects to the 1919 Red Summer and the Tulsa Race Massacre, among others.

Commenters encouraged preserving this site to provide a better understanding of how Black people rebuilt their lives in Springfield after the riot and work to overcome racism and prejudice after the riot. Commenters also discussed the site's unique connection with Abraham Lincoln and his effect on Black freedom, which contributes to the unique story of the site. One commenter expressed support for preserving the site's archeological remains, which would advance African American human rights by allowing the nation to see, experience, and learn from the Springfield Race Riot.

Hospital Sisters Health System representatives expressed support for establishing a park unit, noting their collaboration with the NAACP, elected officials, and other stakeholders to commemorate and educate the public on the riot. Hospital Sisters Health System also noted

that they have already donated part of the land toward advocacy for this project and would be willing to donate additional land, if needed, to preserve resources and support a park unit.

#### **Opposition for Designation**

Two comments opposed a potential designation so that the National Park Service could focus on memorializing positive Black history rather than painful events. One commenter said that the perpetrators of the riot weren't held accountable and that the federal government should not memorialize their actions; instead, the focus should be on coming together as one.

#### **Vision for Preserving the Site (Reflection and Story)**

Several commenters shared their vision for the future of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot archeological site, suggesting that the vision should focus on hope and history. Commenters shared that speaking about the truth could encourage appreciation for the accomplishments born out of actions meant to destroy Black people yet gave them strength to continue fighting for equality, bringing together all races. Some commenters showed support for a quiet place to encourage contemplation.

Commenters noted that although local community supporters have worked hard to mark specific sites throughout the city of Springfield, the sites are geographically dispersed. One specific plan that provides education about the riot as a whole and its lasting impact doesn't currently exist. Commenters recommended that the proposed site include a variety of activities, including on-site interpretation, a monument where visitors can pay tribute to the victims, and a space for healing and reflection. Commenters mentioned that they would like to see historical markers with facts and possibly artifacts of the destroyed homes.

Commenters also noted the commitment of the local community and mentioned their support for partnerships with local stakeholders to provide a place for healing gardens, exhibits, and memorials to the riot victims to provide healing and learning as part of the visitor experience. Commenters mentioned that they would like remaining artifacts and historic features to be protected and a visitor's center to provide educational materials about the riot and the formation of the NAACP.

#### **Activities and Experiences at the Site (Interpretation and the Nearby Lincoln Home)**

Commenters shared that a potential national park unit offers an opportunity to tell the story of the NAACP founding, along with the role of Ida B. Wells-Barnett and her advocacy for racial justice. Some commenters reported that this story is not well known. Commenters mentioned the importance of managing the space to allow reflection but also focusing on interpretation to educate visitors. Some commenters mentioned that they would like to see reenactments, educational programs for schools, and interactive activities. In some cases, commenters mentioned that they knew little about the riot after living in Springfield for many years. Some commenters mentioned the importance of telling the story so that history doesn't repeat itself. Commenters also showed support for uncovering the foundation remains of the archeological site, allowing visitors to see the resources at the site and a visual reminder of the riot.

**Concern**

A few commenters pointed out that a large homeless population lives nearby, which could lead visitors to feel uncomfortable. A few people voiced concerns about potential vandalism at the site and ensuring that visitors feel safe and comfortable in the area.

**Questions for the Study Team**

One commenter asked if this archaeological memorial site would be an appropriate place to display Sangamon County's steel column, which would be gifted from the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, located in Montgomery, Alabama. The column would contain the names of William Donnegan and Scott Burton, who were lynched during the riot.

**NPS Response to This Question**

This question is in reference to the Equal Justice Initiative's lynching memorialization project, about which more can be found here: <https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/memorial>. This comment will be shared with the current site owners (the City of Springfield and Hospital Sisters Health System) and the NAACP. Partnering with the Equal Justice Initiative on a memorial of this type may be appropriate and meaningful regardless of any future NPS designation, as public sentiment supports memorialization and dialogue about the riot, the lynchings, and the link to the founding of NAACP.





15 Bank Row, Suite A, Greenfield, MA 01301  
drwa@deerfieldriver.org

June 16, 2023

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

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

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

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

Dear Chairman Manchin, Ranking Member Barrasso, Ranking Member Daines, and Subcommittee on National Parks - Subcommittee Chairman King,

I am writing on behalf of the Deerfield River Watershed Association to urge your support for S.608. This bill, if passed, would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Deerfield River for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

We feel the Deerfield River is well qualified and deserves consideration for Wild and Scenic River status. The Deerfield River is a unique recreational and natural resource that runs for 76 miles from southern Vermont through northwestern Massachusetts to the Connecticut River, traversing the beautiful Green Mountains, Berkshire hills, and historic river valley towns.

To qualify to be designated under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, a river needs to have "outstandingly remarkable" qualities. Here are just a few reasons that the Deerfield River meets this threshold:

- It offers perhaps the best whitewater boating and rafting in Massachusetts.
- It is also an excellent trout fishery, with some of the best fishing for wild trout in the East.
- The historically significant Mohawk Trail ran along the river and was a principal Native American travel route.
- Several tributaries, such as Cold River and Bog and Gulf Brooks, are completely undammed wild free-flowing rivers.
- Multiple segments of the Deerfield River were identified on the National Rivers Inventory as having "outstandingly remarkable" values, and eligible for National Wild and Scenic Rivers designation.

At the Deerfield River Watershed Association, our Board decided to pursue this initiative in early 2020, and we started an outreach process in the Fall of 2020. Over the past two years, the Deerfield River Watershed Association has been engaged in a watershed-wide campaign of public outreach to communities, organizations, agencies and businesses to inform, educate and seek support for our Wild and Scenic Rivers initiative.

To date, we have contacted every community in the Deerfield River watershed, and have secured letters of support for this initiative from 18 communities in the watershed, including the following:

- Vermont Towns (7): Dover, Guilford, Halifax, Marlboro, Stratton, Whitingham, and Wilmington
- Massachusetts Towns (11): Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Greenfield, Monroe, Rowe, Savoy, and Shelburne

The Deerfield River Watershed Association has also secured letters of support from 12 organizations, agencies, and businesses:

- Windham Regional Commission
- Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
- Vermont Natural Resources Council
- Green River Watershed Association
- Connecticut River Conservancy
- Trout Unlimited, Deerfield River Chapter
- Trout Unlimited, Connecticut River Valley Chapter
- Deerfield River Watershed Association
- Elnu Abenaki Tribe
- Franklin Regional Council of Governments
- Vermont Agency for Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation
- Crabapple Whitewater Rafting

This bill has profound importance for the future management of the Deerfield River because designating segments of the Deerfield River as a National Wild and Scenic River would protect the free-flowing qualities of the river and provide much needed federal funding for river improvement or restoration projects.

If you have any questions regarding the foregoing, please contact me at [chcurtis89@gmail.com](mailto:chcurtis89@gmail.com) or 413-522-5983.

Sincerely,



Christopher Curtis

First Vice President, Deerfield River Watershed Association

CC: Senator Edward Markey  
Senator Elizabeth Warren  
Senator Bernie Sanders  
Senator Patrick Leahy  
Representative Becca Balint  
Representative James McGovern  
Representative Richard Neal



**Town of Deerfield  
Office of the Selectboard  
&  
Board of Health**

Deerfield Municipal Offices  
8 Conway Street  
South Deerfield, MA 01373  
Ph: 413-665-1400  
Fax: 413-665-1411

June 20, 2023

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

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

Dear Chairman Manchin, Ranking Member Barrasso, Ranking Member Daines, and  
Subcommittee on National Parks - Subcommittee Chairman King,

We are writing on behalf of the Town of Deerfield to urge your support for S.608. This bill, if passed, would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Deerfield River for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

We feel the Deerfield River is well qualified and deserves consideration for Wild and Scenic River status. The Deerfield River is a unique recreational and natural resource that runs for 76 miles from southern Vermont through northwestern Massachusetts to the Connecticut River, traversing the beautiful Green Mountains, Berkshire hills, and historic river valley towns.

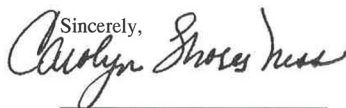
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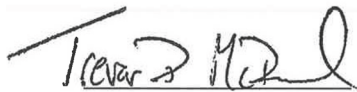
- Multiple segments of the Deerfield River were identified on the National Rivers Inventory as having “outstandingly remarkable” values, and eligible for National Wild and Scenic Rivers designation.


This bill has profound importance for the future management of the Deerfield River because designating segments of the Deerfield River as a National Wild and Scenic River would protect the free-flowing qualities of the river and provide much needed federal funding for river improvement or restoration projects.

If you have any questions regarding the foregoing, please contact Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan at (413) 665-1400 ext. 104, or via email at [ata@town.deerfield.ma.us](mailto:ata@town.deerfield.ma.us).

Sincerely,  


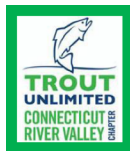
Carolyn Shores Ness, Chair

  
Trevor McDaniel

  
Timothy Hilchey

Town of Deerfield Selectboard & Board of Health

CC: Senator Edward Markey  
Senator Elizabeth Warren  
Senator Bernie Sanders  
Senator Patrick Leahy  
Representative Becca Balint  
Representative James McGovern  
Representative Richard Neal



**Connecticut River Valley Chapter**  
**5607 Westminster West Road**  
**Putney, VT 05346**

*dedicated to conserving, protecting, and restoring North  
 America's coldwater fisheries*

**802-869-3116**

**strictlytrout@vermontel.net**

June 17, 2023

Senator Bernie Sanders  
 332 Dirksen Building,  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Peter Welch  
 SR-124 Russell Senate Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20510

Congressperson Becca Balint  
 1408 Longworth House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515  
 Dear Vermont Congressional delegation:

I am writing on behalf of the Connecticut River Valley chapter of Trout Unlimited to urge your support for S. 608: Deerfield River Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2023. This bill, if passed, would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Deerfield River for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

We feel the Deerfield River is qualified and deserves consideration for Wild and Scenic River status. The Deerfield River is a unique recreational and natural resource that runs for 76 miles from southern Vermont through northwestern Massachusetts to the Connecticut River, traversing the beautiful Green Mountains, Berkshire hills, and historic river valley towns.

For Congress to designate a river under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, it needs to have “outstandingly remarkable” qualities. Here in Vermont, the Deerfield and its tributaries are wild since the Green Mountain National Forest surrounds the upper watershed in Vermont. It is and will remain wild and scenic.

Our chapter of Trout Unlimited works to mitigate some past mistakes in managing the river and we will continue to do so as the Deerfield is an asset to our cold water fishery.

The lead sponsoring organization, The Deerfield River Watershed Association has also secured letters of support from 12 organizations, agencies, and businesses:

- Windham Regional Commission
- Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
- Vermont Natural Resources Council
- Green River Watershed Association
- Connecticut River Conservancy
- Trout Unlimited, Deerfield River Chapter
- Trout Unlimited, Connecticut River Valley Chapter

- Deerfield River Watershed Association
- Elnu Abenaki Tribe
- Franklin Regional Council of Governments
- Vermont Agency for Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation
- Crabapple Whitewater Rafting

This bill has profound importance for the future management of the Deerfield River because designating segments of the Deerfield River as a National Wild and Scenic River would protect the free-flowing qualities of the river and provide much needed federal funding for river improvement or restoration projects.

If you have any questions or could share with us the prognosis for the bill's passage please contact me at [strictlytrout@vermont.net](mailto:strictlytrout@vermont.net) or 802-869-3116.

Thank you



David L. Deen  
Connecticut River Valley chapter  
Trout Unlimited