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

July 19, 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JULY 19, 2016

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

The Department supports S. 312.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

July 19, 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 2(a) states that eligibility for a free pass for disabled veterans is based on "a serviceconnected disability as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code". Section 101 defines "service-connected" but not "disability". We believe that this section should be clarified to ensure that there is no question that every veteran with any percentage of service-connected disability qualifies for the free lifetime pass. We would welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to clarify this language.

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

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

July 19, 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

July 19, 2017

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

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

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

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

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

July 19, 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

July 19, 2017

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

The Department supports enactment of this bill.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

July 19, 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

July 19, 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

July 19, 2017

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Hirono, and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 1459, to establish Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Park in the State of South Carolina, and for other purposes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

July 19, 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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